



Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th February 2024

Present: Tony Attwood, John Goddard, Jonathan Burton, John Capper, Julia Attwood, Val Bowtle, Margaret Hurst, Shawn Martin, Kathryn Fiddick, Glenys Goodwin and Emma Turner.

Tony opened the meeting with devotions.

1. **Apologies:** Jean Mead, Jeremy Trew, Elizabeth Tindley, Jill Gunsell and Doris Stacey.
2. **Consideration of the Agenda**
There were no additions.
3. **Minutes of last meeting**
Minutes of the last meeting held on 9th November 2023 were agreed.
4. **Matters arising**
 - a) **Relationship between CTSW Council and Church Leaders Meeting:** It was agreed that to stop the Leaders meeting discussing the same as the Council Meeting. The Council should be able to make decisions but also take them back to their churches for discussion. This will free the Leaders to discuss other things and less of the business side of things.
 - b) **Lent – any open meetings:** Details to be sent to Tony for the website. **[AP – ALL]**
 - c) **Advertisement for Walk of Witness:** It was agreed that Val will ask Stephen Rapkin about putting together a press release so that the public know what is happening. **[AP – Val]**
 - d) **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service report:** Reports were good and it was well attended. Some were disappointed that they didn't know about the change in speaker, but John Goddard said it was unavoidable as he hadn't had it confirmed until late in the week.
 - e) **Agape Meal report:** Again, it was well attended. They were informed that 29 were coming but ended up with 43 in attendance. Informing of numbers needs looking at. Emma believes that next year the Agape Meal will be at the Catholic Church.
 - f) **Nativity:** Tony sees the Nativity as being non-traditional with carols and a gospel message and likely to be in 2025. With this in mind the Baptist Church, Community Church, URC and Salvation Army indicated that they would be inclined to support this. A team will be needed to oversee the project as we will need to fill many roles on and off stage. Please discuss this with your churches and see what interest there is and if someone is keen to head it up. **[AP – ALL]**
- 5) **Covenant**
It was agreed that the Leaders would discuss the wording of the covenant as it is ambiguous and when it might be signed. It was suggested that the Agape Meal might be more suitable than the United Service. The Leaders are to pass on their comments to John Goddard. **[AP – Ministers]**
- 6) **Hustings**

John Capper asked if CTSW should host the Hustings again. CTSW are not tied to any political party which is why they are in a good position to host again. Paul Parker from Friends is happy to present the evening again but travels a lot with work. If we try and organise it now we can get the parties involved and then invite MP Kemi Badenoch as she is likely to come if the other parties are going to be present.

John Goddard said that it was a very successful event last time, which was held at the Baptist Church, but he wouldn't be keen to hold it there again. He was close to closing the doors as there were over 300 people and there was some aggression towards Kemi afterwards which he had to handle.

It was agreed to investigate either St. Mary's or the Town Hall and see if the Police would be at the meeting. A small committee is needed to pull the event together. If interested, let John Capper know soon so we can look at dates. **[AP – ALL]**

7) Sunday Parking Charges

Churches passed their thoughts on to Kathryn and Simon and our thanks go to them for drafting a letter.

8) Coming events

a) World Day of Prayer: 1st March, Baptist Church, 2pm

b) Easter: Arrangements as usual. Emma will contact Lisa about the advert and include the QR code. **[AP – Emma]**

c) Walk of Witness: As usual and advertise as previously discussed.

d) Christian Aid Week: 12th – 18th May. Service at URC on 12th. Street collection on 18th.

e) Remembrance Sunday: 10th November. Details as usual.

9) Finance

John Capper informed the meeting that all subs were paid last year but 3 still went to the Barclays account, so it remains open. He will remind the churches when subscriptions are next due. Subscriptions will probably need to increase next year as the cost of advertising in the Walden Local has increased and we have an annual subscription for the laptop used by Emma. The balance in the account stands at £774.86. Accounts were examined and signed by Ged Pearce.

10) News from the Churches

Baptist: At the United Service they launched their year of celebrating 250 years. A lot is planned throughout the year including a hog roast. They are also exploring starting a 'Open Table' style group for those in the LGBT community. It's likely that it will be a Sunday tea time and will be around half a dozen over the year. Details to follow.

Community: An infant dedication was recently held with around 190 in attendance including around 40 unchurched. They have a baptism on Easter Sunday and are starting a series on the ethics and fundamentals of the Bible.

URC: Still in the process of seeking a Minister. They recently lost an Elder but have gained two more. They are joining with the Baptist Church on Maundy Thursday and then they will join at URC for Good Friday. Pancakes and Praise on Shrove Tuesday – all are welcome.

St. Mary's: They have just launched a Wiggle, aimed at young people, Service on the first Sunday of the month. It is around 30 minutes and held in the Parish Rooms. Afternoon Coffee Concerts begin again on 14th February. 9th March will be Jimmy's Meal led by Aftershock. The church is trying to upgrade their eco status.

Salvation Army: Their partnership with other organisations continues to work well as does being present in the community.

Friends: To save on heating costs they meet in the tearoom. They are supporting an Afghan family.

11) Any other business:

CTSW Minutes: All are free to share these or direct others to the website.

- 12)** **CTSW Calendar:** This is on the website.
Date of the next meeting
25th April 2024, URC Vestry, 2pm.

Close

Future Discussions/Reviews

Review of the covenant
Agape Meal – Catholic Church

Review APAP – Then 11/29
Review 11/24