

Minutes of CTWM meeting 10th September 2019 held at St John's Old Vic.

Present: Mary Addington, Rachel Bass, Penny Bird, Roger Bridgeman, Gill Coventry, Martin Dawes, Katherine Eyre, Diane Giffard, John Horsley, Christina Kent, Lyn Spall, Barbara Stear & Doug Waller.

Apologies: Freddy Guest, Paul Hambling, Alan Hill, Kevan McCormack, Jean Wallace & Karyl Woolgar

Welcome

Lyn had placed some tea lights and a pot of salt on the table, she asked if anybody could guess the reading. Roger read Matthew Ch5 vv12-16. Lyn then started with a prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed and signed.

Brief Report of Recent Events

Christian Aid Week

There was a little confusion over the amount raised for Christian Aid this year, Lyn had a figure of £5047, but was not sure whether this included the money from the Lent Lunches which she thought was over £1000. There was agreement at the meeting that this was a considerable amount, but Lyn did ask everyone to go away and ask their churches whether they wanted to continue with the door collections. Some churches raise funds in other ways for Christian Aid, coffee mornings, big breakfasts etc, and it is acknowledged on the Christian Aid website that door collections are becoming harder especially as many people now don't carry cash on them.

Woodbridge Regatta

We were asked by the Regatta committee to start the Regatta with a short service, the team leading was made up from many of our churches, and Rachel mentioned that she and Alex had thoroughly enjoyed playing in the mixed band. Thanks go to Graham for his interesting short sermon and to the St John's puppeteers.

Big Family Day Out

This is the 3rd year that this event has been held in Kingston Fields, and Doug felt that it was becoming a well-oiled machine. As yet no follow up meeting has been held to discuss the event and to decide whether it will run again next year. Doug reckoned there had been approx. 2000 people attend during the day, with many not being affiliated to any church. There were stalls from Street Jesus, Gideons and TWAM, as well as face painting, a toddler's area the bouncy castles and much more. There had been some good feedback about John Hardwick's work with the children, and Doug's interview with Pete Plummer about Town Pastors showed people what the churches get up to in the community.

Healing on the Street

The community are now getting familiar with the team every fortnight, and although there are not many who wish to be prayed with on the streets, they receive many prayer requests. Lyn pointed out that like the town pastors HOTS won't go out without a prayer team back at base.

Open the Book

For various reasons concerning health and family, some members of the Open the Book Team, have not been able to continue with us but we have been pleased to welcome a new participant. We continue to go into the three State Primary schools in Woodbridge most Wednesday mornings.

It was with some sadness that we saw Miss Brown retire as Head of Kyson School. She has always been so warm and welcoming to the Open the Book Team. However, we have been reassured from the new Headteacher, Mr Gunson that we will be just as welcome in the future.

Last Term we told and acted out the following stories: On the Road to Emmaus; The Ascension and the story of the Beggar at the Beautiful Gate. On Wednesday this week we begin with Elijah and the Ravens (using some lovely Raven wings made for us by Shirley Kendall.) We would be very pleased to know of anyone who has a few hours to spare and could help us make or maybe alter a few of our

costumes. Finally, we are indebted to Woodbridge Methodist Church for their kind permission to use their premises for our practices and the facility to store our props and costumes, which makes a huge contribution to what we are able to do.

Town Pastors

Most weeks 2 teams made up of a lady and gentleman, patrol the streets. Stopping for chats, helping anybody in need, whether that be giving directions, handing out a bottle of water or calling an ambulance. The town pastors are supported by a prayer team back at the Methodist Church with whom they are in contact by radio and they also have people who pray at home for the town. At present due to needing more volunteers they go out once or twice a month, meeting at 8pm at the base for prayer then go out about 8.30 until 10.30 come in for refreshments then go out again until between 12.30 and 1am.

Please can you put in your pew sheets/notices a request for more volunteers to help with Town Pastors, Healing on the Streets and Open the Book. Rather than put details on display in your notices perhaps you could keep them and suggest people ask you if they are interested.

Healing on the Streets - gillanandcaroline@btinternet.com

Town Pastors - peter.jplummer@btinternet.com

Open the Book – Marian 01394 382950.

Finances

The present balance is £588.68

Expenditure since the last meeting

Licence for Regatta - £68

Licence for Big Family Da Out - £110

Donation towards Big Family Day Out - £400

Roger proposes to keep the subscriptions the same, and will be sending out invoices shortly. He asks that if a church is paying by bank transfer that they drop him an email to let him know when it goes in, as he now only gets statements quarterly.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Cards

St Mary's school has agreed their pupils will design this year's card, and Lyn will bring the schools selection for us to choose from, to the next meeting. Although this is the biggest expenditure for us each year, the cards are mostly welcomed, and when she has been into the shops, they are very grateful to be included. Barbara has also put some of the cards into the local hotels, so that anybody visiting can find out the times of the services.

Advent Service

This year's Advent Service will be a Taize service at St Andrew's Church, Melton, at 6.30pm on 1st December.

AOB

Good Neighbours

Lyn received the following from a member of St John's

Dear Lyn,

Care for our Neighbours -

For some weeks Rosemary Wood and I have discussed concerns about the needs of frail elderly people living near St John's, and where there are clusters of frail elderly people without the resources of health and mobility to help each other. As for example in Mussidan Place. Also, often family members living at a distance, cannot be on hand day to day for bits of shopping, prescriptions

and health clinic and Doctors' appointments. After a Hospital admission, this is even more vital. Although hospital discharge usually involves some kind of Care-package, it is no substitute for a neighbourly visit.

We feel that there is a dire need for raising awareness in the community at all ages - almost a "Neighbourhood Watch Scheme". For example, if someone had simply been knocking on these people's doors, asking "If all was well?", the Mussidan place tragedy may have been avoided. However, with so many vulnerable elderly, or those with mental health problems, the neighbourly call cannot be resourced from within the group. It needs outside help to be effective. Could Churches Together help with this, like Street Pastors? For example, some years ago, St Augustine's Church in Ipswich had a street warden system, whereby a Church member living on each street would take note of comings and goings and visit neighbours who were in need. Their Pastoral Care was organised in that way.

Bishop Gavin Reid once gave this famous quote from his experience, that "Evangelism is at it's most powerful where Pastoral Care is at its best". Some years ago, I gathered some resources together under the title "Friend of the Family - Pastoral Visiting Scheme", putting forward the need for befriending people known to the fellowship, and raising awareness of needs in the community. Also E.g; Tearfund schemes like Umoja - Togetherness (Cambodia). Jesus calls us to love God with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves - In other words not neglect them!

Some frail elderly people have chosen to live in their own homes, rather than to live collectively in sheltered situations. Other perhaps would rather be living with their families, children and grandchildren, as in Sri Lanka and other places in the world, as things used to be in this Country, where the elderly are revered and cared for in the family home. Could the Government give an incentive to those who could manage that? This would save on housing and lessen some pressure on the NHS and Social Care. We should consider encouraging self-help groups to meet in each other's homes once a month for coffee, or afternoon tea, before they become isolated. E.g; Our Bereavement Support Group. Cathy

A great deal of discussion was had. If this was to be done at town level 1 person would need to co-ordinate and probably the town would need to be split into areas, groups such as rotary and age concern could be involved. It was then remarked that if this was done at this level people would have to be DBS checked etc which might put people off. Many admitted that mistakes are made at church level with people slipping through the net, town wide this would be harder. Doug mentioned that Quay Time set up with the Lions had not been as popular as they thought it would be, and it was felt that perhaps this was because some would rather not come out but have people visit at home. It was also mentioned that people are proud and do not like to ask for help. Lyn will go back to Cathy and suggest that a amended letter be put in the free papers, and that perhaps someone could help her get it on social media. This would raise awareness and would perhaps encourage people to look local to home to visit the lonely.

Digital Legacy – <https://digitallegacyassociation.org/>

This is reminding people that when they die those left may not have access to everything from bank accounts to social media accounts, emails and utility bills. It is suggested that a list of suppliers, and if done on the net, passwords be left with your will to make things easier. **It was suggested that we may put this website and a brief outline into our newsletters.**

Minute News

Methodist Church

Most Saturdays they now run a computer club at the same time as the Coffee Morning, this is for anyone who wants help with setting up or using a tablet, laptop etc. They now have a part time families and childrens worker, who over the summer has been trialling various activities, including re-starting messy church. A small group have been targeting the new houses at Longwood Fields, handing out leaflets on their activities and introducing the church. On October 12th 7pm they will be holding their annual quiz, if anybody wishes to attend, either a team of 6 or to be put into a team please email Diane Giffard. In November the normal monthly men's breakfast will be open to all in the church to raise funds for Christian aid.

Quay

In a post Mark world, the church are currently taking stock and deciding where they go now 'moving forwards'. One of the things they are exploring/praying about is taking on new staff maybe a family's worker. With St John's they are organising a light party, an alternative to Halloween. They are still running quay time for those that are lonely, and the toddler group. The monthly 9am breakfast church is very popular with church members and non-church families, the more relaxed style sitting around tables appeals.

St Mary's

They have recently updated their website. Jamie is now sleeping in their church porch. The trial for taking contactless payments for collections did not happen because there is not a good enough wireless connection in the church. Virginia Spray was recently licenced minister with responsibilities for children and young families. The church has been fast tracked to find a replacement for Kevan when he retires next year.

Salvation Army

Alan will now be staying until 2022. They have 85 registered for the food bank, with 27 parcels going out each week. 15 hot meals are served each week. The regular Thursday coffee morning are now back up and running after the summer break. Rachel asked for prayer for her work with their youth and the increase of their youth, at present she has a 4yr old, an 11yr old and a 12yr old.

St Andrews

They held a community barbeque, the service started at 10am and was an open air Eucharist in the church garden. Approx. 90 people attended, 50 of who were non-church. Their messy church sessions on the 2nd Saturday of the month will soon be celebrating its 5th birthday, and the messy communion is also happening once a month. They will soon be starting a course on 'The Christian Perspective on Climate change'. John Berg will be doing a presentation called '42 Years in Japan' on November 24th 6pm all welcome.

St John's

They now have 4 outreach projects running. Little Gems the toddler group gets up to 70 people attending, this is followed once a month by a short pram service.

Who let the Dad's out, is aimed at fathers and grandfathers with toddlers, once a month on a Saturday.

The Hub café is every Monday 10-12, with a repair shop once a month.

Gateway café is for young adults who want to get together and play board games.

The PCC is now split into groups who look at one particular area. Journeying – discipleship.

Caring – pastoral, Reach Out, Resources – bricks and mortar, Growing younger – encouraging families.

Quakers

Their August appeal was Greenpeace and the September one is for The Prison Fellowship. In June a meeting took place at the Ipswich Quaker meeting house entitled 'Catholics ad Quakers' an evening of dialogue. On Sunday 8th September 3 representatives from Suffolk Refugee Support attended their meeting and after coffee gave a presentation explaining their work. Quakers are also holding pub evenings (The Bull) and coffee mornings, which are both constructive and social.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 6th November Salvation Army Hall.

Martin closed the meeting with a prayer, followed by the grace.