

Minutes of CTWM meeting 6th November 2019 held at Salvation Army Hall

Present: Rachel & Alex Bass, Roger Bridgeman, Gill Coventry, Katherine Eyre, Diane Giffard, Freddy Guest, Paul Hambling, Christina Kent, Kevan McCormack, Lyn Spall, Jean Wallace & Doug Waller.

Apologies: Mary Addington, Penny Bird, Martin Dawes, Alan Hill, John Horsley, Clive Howard, Barbara Stear, & Karyl Woolgar

Welcome

Lyn welcomed everyone and all introduced themselves. Doug opened with a prayer.

Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed and signed.

Feedback from churches about door collections for Christian Aid

Jean is the only one who does collections at St Thomas's but wishes to continue.

St Andrew's have decided that they are not doing collections next year, partly as a few collectors had been subjected to verbal abuse, they will review next year.

Lyn suggested that although the amount raised has gone down slightly in recent years it is still approx. £5000, so it is worth doing the streets people are able and willing to do. Kevan said let us do what we can do. It was decided to review this annually. A decision will be made at the February meeting how many envelopes to order.

Brief Report of Recent Events

Healing on the Street

There was no formal report, but Lyn mentioned that they are still going out fortnightly and they are recognised by many who want prayer.

Open the Book

Katherine reported.

Following on from the team's performance of Elijah and the Raven (1 kings 16-17), they have performed A Jar and a Jug (1 kings 17). The team will start rehearsing for a new play Tea at Auntie's House (Luke 10).

In addition to the 3 local primary school they usually visit, they have been asked to perform at Woodbridge Prep School. The schools usually put on their own Nativity performances and it was felt that as Open the Book would be performing earlier than the Christmas period, they would perform a story of Christ's teaching rather than his birth.

Town Pastors

Diane made a plea for the churches to ask for more volunteers, as recently they have struggled to put out 2 teams every week, and although most weeks are reasonably quiet their help is still needed quite regularly.

Finances

The present balance is £1437.68 and will be £1587 after the last church has paid its subscription. Lyn hadn't got a quote for the printing of the Christmas cards, but it was decided to go with the usual firm as they are so good.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Cards

St Mary's school had provided the Christmas card designs this year, and the winner was a pupil in year 6, Lyn will get the child a Christian book and all the finalists will get some Christmas chocolate. More cards will be needed this year with the increase in houses on the new estate at Melton, Paul has let Lyn have additional numbers. There is also a small increase in the number of houseboats.

Please can all ministers let Freddy flquest2315@gmail.com have details of your Christmas services asap for the insert.

Sorting/collecting the cards will take place at the Methodist Church on Friday 22nd November at 1.30pm, please can all churches send 1 or 2 people to help.

Advent Service

This year's Advent Service will be a Taize service at St Andrew's Church, Melton, at 6.30pm on 1st December. A poster has now been sent to all churches.

Remembrance Service on Market Hill

The numbers attending this open-air service increases every year, last year 850 service sheets were printed and they ran out.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held 18th-25th January, Jean has asked Father Edmund and he has agreed to hold an ecumenical service at 6.30 on Sunday 19th January 2020. Please remember to put in your notices after Christmas, maybe Jean will remind us nearer the time.

Good Friday Walk of Witness & Service

It was decided to discuss this at the February meeting.

AOB

Dates for 2020

Tues 4th February – St Andrew's Melton. Snacks to be brought as a farewell to Kevan on his retirement

Thurs 7th May – Methodist Church

Wed 9th September – Quay?

Tues 3rd November – St Thomas's

Postcards

Please put a reminder in your church notices/pew sheets for the CTWM postcards, if anybody notices someone moving in near where they live to put 1 of our postcards through their door.

Hustings

The local labour party had already been onto St John's to see if they were going to be arranging a hustings, Clive had come forward with some dates. Kevan suggested someone to be the Facilitator but since then Nick Cottam from St Mary's has agreed to act in this role. The date will be Thursday 21st November, poster to follow shortly. All 4 of the candidates (to date) have agreed to come.

Minute News

St Mary's

Whilst our meeting was going on the PCC's of both St Mary's and Bealings were holding a meeting to start the procedure of 'Fast Tracking' the advertising for a candidate to replace Kevan (not going to be easy!) when he retires in February. Jamie is now in a room in Ipswich and not sleeping in St Mary's porch, however a few weeks ago Rachel (SA) had spoken to him and he wasn't happy there she had encouraged him stay put. The bells will shortly fall silent as £35,000 needs to be spent on the mechanism (not the bells). There has been a gradual increase in the number of families and children attending. Last January 6 adults were confirmed these have kept meeting and are now helping 3 more adults who wish to be confirmed.

Quay

They have now agreed to start searching for a 'families pastor' as there has been a good increase in the number of young families attending, with numbers at Sunday School being approx. 40. They will be starting a new Alpha course in the New Year. They held a joint 'Light Party' (instead of Halloween) with St John's, 80 children attended many who are not attending any church.

St Andrew's

They do not have many families attending their Sunday services, but their monthly messy church and parent & toddler groups are well attended. Tracy Watson-Brown is now a lay worker. There have

been many baptisms at Ufford church. The weekly lunch club continues to grow. They are the first church to be registered to have a 'free pantry', this is located in their church porch with the message 'give what you can, take what you need'. Paul stressed they would still be supporting the Salvation Army food bank. Paul has been asked to do a reading at the Crematorium Carol Service this year. Paul asked for prayer as they are starting up 'Network Groups' which are people within the church and the local community.

Salvation Army

They now have 125 clients registered at their food bank, an increase of 40 since our September meeting. There are usually between 20-30 stay for lunch on a Thursday, some of whom use the shower and washing machine. A big thank you to all the churches and schools for their donations after their harvest festival celebrations. They are holding a Christmas Fair on 30th Nov, and a Christingle on 22nd December at 3.30pm.

St Thomas's

There is a new group working towards their confirmation, this maybe done with the Ipswich churches.

St John's

They are holding a small alpha course in Suffolk Place, and the life groups are organising an alpha group during the day for young Mum's. The youth (high school age) have now taken over the church hall as their space. They have redecorated the hall and St John's will be refurbishing the kitchen, they wanted somewhere they could take their friends after school to pray, to play and to chat.

Methodists'

After announcing at the last meeting that they had a new part time Families and Children's worker, they had to announce that she had left due to family commitments and finding a job nearer to home. Although they hope to re-advertise the role, the few months she was working with them has made them re-think what it is they really want/need. Due to some recent incidents in the church building, and after consultation with all the groups who use the building, they are now installing CCTV. The weekend of 16th/17th will see a 'Big Breakfast' and a 'Soup n Pud lunch' all in aid of Christian Aid.

Quakers

Their October appeal was in aid of the Addis Ababa hospital specialising in helping very young mothers 92% of whom give birth to a still born baby, and quite often leaves the mothers doubly incontinent a 45min procedure is all they need to cure them. Some of them go back to fight against FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) in their communities; the appeal raised £469 the largest amount ever raised. The November appeal will be for Sanctuary Meetings which have been set up in various parts of the country for refugees. The December appeal will be for Lighthouse Women's Refuge in Ipswich.

On Sunday 9th November there will be 'Singing in Harmony for Unity in our World' at the Leiston Quaker house. Songs from many countries and traditions. On Sunday 24th November following the meeting for worship there will be a discussion on the Quaker Business Method. On Sunday 15th December after their meeting there will be a bring and share lunch and on 26th January there will be a discussion on 'Power and Privilege at Gill's house.

Next Meeting

Tues 4th February, at St Andrew's.

Lyn closed with the grace.

Signed.....

Date.....