

CTWM meeting held via Zoom on 8th July 2020

Virtually Present: Roger Bridgeman, Freddy Guest, Diane Giffard, Alan Hill, Lyn Spall, Virginia Marshall, Barbara Steer & Doug Waller.

Lyn read from Acts ch4 vv32-35

Alan opened in prayer

Minute News

Quakers

Just before lockdown they had a sanctuary meeting with Ipswich to support refugees, since lockdown not much practical help has been managed. They have been having electronic meetings with their group, helping those who needed equipment and/or help setting up they have decided that they will keep some of the electronic meetings going even when things get back to a more normal routine, as it helps those who cannot travel.

St Mary's

Rev Nigel Prior and his wife Liz who should have moved and be working by now, will have a virtual induction service on Monday 24th August. Andy Todd became a lay minister on 27th June. St Mary's has been opened for private prayer since 29th June Monday, Thursday and Friday 10 -12 and 5 - 7pm, Tuesday 10 - 2pm, Wednesday and Saturday 2 - 4pm, they ask people to place a post it where they have been sitting and observe the 72 hour rule. Last Sunday they held their first service in church when 45 people attended, this was without much advertising, so although they can seat 70 at 2m distancing they have decided that from now on people will have to book to come to the Sunday service, this can be done on their website. Their new parish secretary started in April but has been working mainly from home until the last 3 weeks when she has been in the office, last week their shop opened.

Methodists

At present we are still closed with discussions on going about how and when we can open for services, Methodist churches do not tend to be open all the time for personal prayer apart from Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. Martin decided that he could not be on sabbatical whilst the pandemic was happening so has postponed it until next year. With no services Martin has been putting reflections on the church website and there is also a virtual open garden complete with trains. Some of the churches in our circuit have put services on the web, and Westminster Central Hall have been live streaming services on a Sunday morning, which really helps keep the feeling of unity. Instead of our usual notices that are produced weekly and handed out at services and put on the website, we have produced KIT – Keeping In Touch which is emailed out every week, this includes reflections from Martin, news and articles from any member of the congregation who wishes to participate and our Intercessory prayers. Our pastoral visitors who at present cannot visit have been printing out and delivering the KIT for any who do not have the internet, and ringing round all members to keep in touch.

We have a new website <https://woodbridge.methodistic.org.uk>

St Thomas's

Jean emailed the sad news the other week that Deacon Peter Coates had died, Lyn remembered that he used to come to CTWM meetings and tell us all about his visits to Moldova with which he had close ties.

Salvation Army

They are still open on Wednesdays and Thursdays to hand out food parcels, before lockdown they were sending out about 40 a week this has risen to 90 and Alan thinks may top 100 soon, they are delivering parcels from Ipswich to Framlingham, Wickham Market to Leiston and all places in between. They have been given donations of food and money from the churches, the town council, the Co-op and some people in Woodbridge have been organising street collections for them. Instead of offering the sit-down meal on a Thursday they have been making batches of meals and

putting them in the food parcels. They have had many people offer to help since the start of lockdown. The Salvation Army have been putting services on the web, but Alan cannot see at present when they will be able to hold services in their hall. He did at the start of lockdown open the church some Sundays and found that people did come in to pray not all of whom are members of any church. This is the first week when he has been able to visit people in their homes.

Quay

Doug was worried at the start of lockdown that the church members would scatter, but instead has found that they have come together. They started a buddy system to pair up people who could offer practical help of phone calls and shopping to those who were living alone and/or shielding, this has worked very well with many new friendships being formed. They have been holding on-line services via both YouTube and Facebook, with people able to join in by commenting on what was going on. They are not planning on opening for services any time soon as they feel they could only seat about 40 people safely and with the numbers and ages of children they have it would be impossible to keep them seated as required. At their last service in March Doug announced that they had appointed a families pastor Guy, he has now started. Doug feels that during the pandemic people have really embraced technology to help them worship and keep in touch, they are running a weekly prayer meeting which if held at church would probably only see about 15 people but at present on line they have approx. 50, people can type in their prayers for Doug to read and he is finding that people who don't normally pray out loud are joining in.

St John's

From the start of lockdown housegroups have been keeping in touch with meetings on zoom, and the PCC has also been meeting this way with a group working on how to open for Sunday services; they did send out a questionnaire to church members but most people were not ready to come in for a service yet. Initially they put a service on their website for people to read and then click on Youtube clips for hymns, it wasn't as personal and some didn't engage with it very easily, so they now video various members during the week doing readings, playing hymns etc which is then put together as a service on Sunday. They are trialling the opening of the church for personal prayer during the week, most of the chairs have been cleared away with prayer stations around the church and a few chairs in the middle, those on duty then clean any chairs that are used, this is still a trial to see how best to work it. Claire their children and family's worker has been working through facebook with the younger ones and parents. The youth have been having weekly meetings to chat and keep in touch. One of their young people has been running a bible study with her friends. Clive's recovery from his spinal operation had been slow and he is signed off until August, Lyn asked for prayers for him as he is very frustrated. Andy who was their youth worker was ordained as a deacon earlier in the year and has taken more of an active role in Clive's absence. Lyn has had many favourable comments from across all churches about our Virtual Walk of Witness, she found it very hard not having the sunrise service this year and went down to the bandstand with her daughter at sunrise and found a couple doing the same thing.

Finances

Present bank balance £619.

Town Pastors

The town pastors have not been out since lockdown, and although some of the pubs are now open will still not go out on a Friday because of what they may be needed to do ie close contact with people. Last Friday however a prayer walk was organised by Pete Plummer for any of the TP's or prayer team who wished to come out, 13 people attended and went out in 2's or 3's walking in different areas of the town. Pete would like to carry that on, and another walk will take place this Friday meeting at the Methodist Church car park for 7pm walking round for about an hour, anybody is welcome to join in so please advertise in your churches.

Future events

Lyn asked if anyone was doing on-line alpha courses, Quay were in the middle of an Alpha course when we went into lockdown but the participants decided that they didn't want to do it virtually and they are now looking into the possibility of starting again in September but with no meal. Lyn knew someone who was doing it with their husband who were happier doing it from the 'safety' of their own home.

Lyn asked whether we wanted to discuss things like the Advent service and Week for Christian Unity, most felt that we should wait until our meeting in September to see how things are going and then make tentative plans. Diane felt that we should still aim to get our Christmas cards made and delivered so that the people of Woodbridge would know we are still here and praying for them, and if it is easier perhaps ask the children of our churches to design. Alan suggested not waiting for Christmas but organising postcards from CTWM which we can deliver in the autumn as he felt it was very important that people know we are praying for them, and the Love of Jesus is there for them all. Doug suggested that he and Alan get together virtually to discuss the wording of these.

We finished with the Grace.

Next meeting

Wednesday September 9th.

A decision will be made nearer the time whether this will be in person or virtually again.