

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting on Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Lyn Spall (chair), Mary Addington, Barbara Stear, Alan Hill, Rachel and Alex Green, Roger Bridgeman, Doug Waller (from 8 p.m.) Nigel Prior, Penny Bird, Freddie Guest (minutes)

Apologies: John Horsley, Diane Giffard, Martin Dawes

1. **Welcome and Devotions:** Lyn welcomed everybody and in particular Father Nigel Prior, the new Rector of St Mary's to the meeting. Alan read from Philippians chapter 4, gave a short message of hope and trust in God for the future and concluded the devotions with a prayer.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** on 8 July 2020 were agreed.
3. **Matters arising**

Cards to say WE'RE HERE: Alan explained that a card with a phone number for people to ring if they had a need for information about Church services, help and prayers could be distributed in the town. There followed an extensive discussion. Lyn suggested that rather than having another card printed we could use the existing Welcome Card produced by CTWM and put stickers with new wording on them. She also suggested putting an advert in the free press. Roger added that a more cost-effective way of reaching people through the free press was to offer an article to the editor. Alan suggested buying a mobile phone so that there was just one contact. Members of CTWM could take it in turns to answer calls. This would require an efficient updating of information about each Church. Mary argued whether the geographical distance could be an obstacle. Doug suggested using social media to reach out to people not connected to our churches at the moment and publicise for example when churches were open for prayer. The meeting considered that it was probably necessary to use the local magazines as well as media to reach as many people as possible. It was resolved to publish an article in a local magazine and Roger will contact an editor. Alex suggested a design for the logo "We are here for you". Each church could possibly reach out via social media. It was decided to re-visit this matter at the next meeting.

4. Minute News:

- a. Quay Church: They are working on a document "Opening Up". They have online worship services and their church is open Sundays 3-4 and Wednesdays 2-4 for a reflective space guided by Doug. They are considering how they can organise their work with children and young people and are currently waiting for the new guidelines. House group meetings are taking place in gardens and open spaces. They encourage people to watch services together, now limited to 6 people.
- b. St Andrews: They have started Sunday services and live stream with Ufford Church alternately. There is a crack in the spire of St Andrew's so the access route had to be changed. The Pantry also had to be moved.
- c. Methodist: Sunday services started on 16 August, limited to 30 people. Rev Martin Dawes is suffering from depression and currently not able to work. Members keep in touch with a weekly newsheet sent electronically and printed out for those without a computer. Pastoral friends take it out and keep in contact with members.
- d. St Mary's: The church is open for quite a lot of the time because people come both for spiritual needs and tourist visits. They operate a booking system for their services. Nigel is also now Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's in Great Bealings. Andy Todd, who used to come to CTWM meetings, has been ordained as Deacon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

- e. Salvation Army: They are not starting any services at the moment because their hall can only accommodate 20 people. The foodbank is meeting an increased need in the community but it also receives support from organisations and churches. They give out food parcels as well as cooked meals.
- f. St John's: Following a serious operation Clive is starting a phased return to work. The church building is open on Wednesdays 10-1 for private prayer. Communion is offered every Sunday at 9 a.m. They have virtual services and virtual prayer meetings. A zoom coffee and chat and the outdoor hub café in the Red Lion car park enable people to gather informally. The life groups meet in gardens or parks. Andy Williams, who worked for St John's for 16 and a half years, mostly as Youth Pastor, then in recent months as Support Pastor (curate) was ordained and will now work in Bury St Edmunds.

5. Future Events

- a. Harvest outdoor celebration: Lyn's idea of holding a short harvest celebration on Kingston Fields was very positively commented on. This event is meant as a celebration of all gifts we have been given and all the positive things that we can be grateful for during this time of worry and fear. It was thought that the new law on group gatherings indoors and outdoors of not more than 6 people did not affect this event as long as the town council agrees to it. They have been very supportive so far and Lyn will continue to liaise with them. The event is planned for 27 September and will not last for more than 30 minutes. Groups of people attending should not be larger than 6; there are rules for the performers on the platform. People are encouraged to bring their own sanitisers and masks and there will be stewards advising people where to stand. Roger mentioned that we need a licence from CCLI as two hymns will be sung on stage and the puppets may perform a song "Cauliflowers Fluffy". Rachel suggested that we hand out our welcome cards but under the restrictions of such events we must not handle paper etc While this is a good idea, in the current circumstances we cannot do it. Penny suggested that the service be videoed so that people unable to attend could still see it. It was then decided to hold the event at 2 p.m. to enable more people to attend. It was suggested that congregations could also be alerted to it during the morning services. Lyn is still looking for a piano player and a guitar player. Clive's daughter Katie may be asked to sing.
- b. Advent Service: Lyn suggested the possibility of a Nativity play 😊 but for now we will concentrate on the harvest celebration.

6. Finances: Roger reported that the balance was unchanged at £619.22.

7. A.O.B.

Christmas cards: It was considered vital that we distribute Christmas cards this year. Lyn suggested that the children of the different churches should be invited to enter designs for the Christmas card motive this year (age up to 18). The designs have to be sent to the churches' CTWM representatives by the end of October and they will forward them to Lyn so that the winning design can be selected at our next meeting.

8. Next Meeting: Virtual or otherwise on 3rd November

9. The meeting closed with The Grace.