

## CTWM meeting held via Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Virtually Present:** Rachel & Alex Bass, Penny Bird, Roger Bridgeman, Annette Cooper, Diane Giffard, Freddy Guest, Paul Hambling, Alan Hill, Clive Howard, Father Nigel Prior, Lyn Spall, Barbara Stear, Doug Waller & Harry Woods.

**Apologies:** Mary Addington, Martin Dawes, Father Edmund, John Horsley & Virginia Marshall,

Doug opened in prayer.

Lyn read from Matthew ch11

Lyn welcomed Annette Cooper who is the rural dean and Harry Woods who is training with Alan to be a salvation army officer.

### **Minutes from the last meeting**

These were agreed, and Lyn asked Diane to sign.

### **Matters Arising**

At the last meeting Father Nigel had mentioned that Woodbridge were trying to become a fair-trade town, the town council has now put its support behind this. Lyn wondered whether the chairperson Sue Todd could let us have regular updates on this, Father Nigel will give Sue Lyn's details.

### **Election of Officers**

All officers agreed to stand for another year, this was voted with a show of hands with no dissenters or abstainers.

Lyn Spall - Chairperson

Freddy Guest - Vice chair

Roger Bridgeman - Treasurer

Diane Giffard - Secretary

### **Brief Report of recent events**

#### Christmas Unwrapped

This was well attended with approx. 250-300 people even with the inclement weather, some who came just for the family trail and others just for the carol service, hopefully quite a few did both. Lyn wanted to thank everyone who helped with preparations and/or on the day. Lyn had many emails afterwards from people who said how grateful they were that the churches had put on this event. Not all were from people who had attended, some who had watched the service on the net this included a lady in London another in Australia and the President of the Methodist Conference.

### **Finances**

Roger thanked all the churches for their speedy payment of subs.

£1086 was paid to Topcat for the sound and screen for Christmas Unwrapped, of course this year we have not had the expense of Christmas Cards.

Roger has just paid for our public liability insurance £112

Balance £1041

### **Future Events**

#### Lent Groups

Father Nigel has recommended the book 'Voices from the Holy Land', produced by the charity Friends of the Holy Land, their mission is 'to secure a resilient and enduring community for Christians in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan'. He mentioned that this was a very ecumenical charity, and the book could be used by house groups or individuals, each chapter has a personal story from someone working in the Holy Land, along with poetry, scripture and prayers. The book can be purchased through their website <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/lenten-book> at £7.99 either for a book or e-book.

#### Lent Lunches

The lent lunches have been run for the last 38 years here in Woodbridge with all donations going to Christian aid, obviously this year it cannot go ahead, Tony Waller has asked whether our churches could find other ways to fundraise for such a good cause. Annette is running a lent lunch on zoom and is asking people to sit and eat together on zoom and still donate to Christian Aid.

#### Walk of Witness

As it is very doubtful that lockdown will have ended by Easter, Doug suggested that we prepare another virtual walk of witness as last year, Paul agreed. Lyn asked whether anybody knew of someone who could either take pictures of the walk we would normally do or video it to be part of this, Paul asked that we include pictures of St Andrews in this where we would not walk. It was suggested that maybe we could take parts from the 'Voices from the Holy Land' to read.

#### Sunrise Service

Annette pointed out that if we are still in lockdown we cannot hold this event as it would be breaking the law, the only place outside at present you can hold a church event is on church property ie graveyard or car park. It was decided that we would plan in case we are out of lockdown, Alan will bring taped music we could sing with masks on as at Christmas Unwrapped and lead a short service (not sure anything was said about words), it would need to start approx. 6am as sunrise is 6.23am.

#### **AOB**

##### Open the Book

Details in November's minutes, Lyn suggested we leave this for the time being until schools are back up and running properly.

##### Healing ministry on-line

Details also in last times minutes, Lyn felt that John wanted people to see what was available to them on-line especially now when people's mental health is so fragile. Some of our churches are doing prayer ministry.

##### CAP - Christians Against Poverty

This is a very well know countrywide Christian charity that helps people out of debt, it is run at local churches our nearest one being St John's at Saxmundham. They have debt councillors who look at an individual's finances and help them to plan, but they also want people to become befrienders as debt leaves many people isolated. <https://capuk.org/> Local rep at St John's Saxmundham, Chris Cotton.

##### Monthly on-line prayer meeting

Lyn has suggested that we hold a monthly meeting via zoom for anyone in our churches, people can also join in by phone. Lyn will organise the first one and will send out the details for our churches to advertise, then people can contact Lyn if they want to join in to get a password. Paul has volunteered to do May. This will run on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month.

##### Official Welcome of 3 Anglican Churches

Since January, 3 other churches have been officially brought under the Anglican churches, Great Bealings as part of St Mary's, Bredfield as part of St John's and Ufford as part of Melton. Father Nigel wondered whether we should consider re-naming our group and also whether representatives from these churches would be welcome. Paul pointed out that Ufford used to have a rep and Clive mentioned that he served that capacity for both churches, but we welcome anybody that wishes to come from these churches. Annette pointed out that there are a lot of other churches locally, it was felt that this was something that needed to be thought about. Paul suggested the name Churches Together in the Deben Estuary.

##### Ecumenical Charity Support

This has been covered in the Lent Lunches

##### Emergency/pastoral care helpline

It was felt that some churches are already providing this.

##### School Chaplains

CYM - Christian Youth Ministry already provide some school chaplains in Ipswich, they are there for both the teachers and the pupils. Just 42 are very keen on starting this locally,

they already have a presence in 13 of the local primary schools and 2 of the senior schools they have asked for CTWM's support, which we definitely give. Paul suggested that maybe Josh a school chaplain in Felixstowe could come and speak to us about this.

### **Minute News**

#### St Mary's

The church has been shut since 2<sup>nd</sup> January but they are holding evening prayer via zoom, the link for this goes out in the weekly newsletter that is distributed to approx. 300 households.

#### Methodists

They have been closed since the second lockdown, but send out a weekly newsheet on-line and by post called KIT Keeping In Touch, and have now started a monthly magazine. Their minister Martin is on Sabbatical from end of March to end of June. This year is their celebration of 150 years, some events have already been cancelled but there will be a zoom pancake evening. They had got lined up various people to preach this year (including the President of Conference), and are still hoping to do this but it maybe on-line or if back in church pre-recorded sermons if people cannot travel.

#### Quakers

I hope Virginia or Henning can send me a report.

#### Salvation Army

The food bank is handing out over 100 parcels a week these are not just to people in Woodbridge, these include some cooked meals, 37 of which are delivered the rest collected. There are a good band of helpers for this, from other churches as well.

#### St John's

To start with their on-line services were all pre-recorded, but now there is live-streaming as well. Clare their children and family's worker is keeping in contact and providing activities through Facebook. There are 14 house groups some are meeting via zoom, and a young people's group, for those not on the internet a fortnightly letter goes out.

#### St Andrew's

Their Little Free Pantry is continuing and definitely serving a need. Work has now started to repair the crack in the church tower. Prayers are needed for the financial situation at Ufford. There is a live stream Eucharist service at 10am on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as a zoom bible study on Thursday afternoons. Paul will be splitting his Sabbatical September, October and January.

A special thank you to Jean Wallace who is stepping down after being a rep for St Thomas's Catholic Church for the last 20 years, a little something will be posted to her. Hopefully Jean Taylor will be able to join our next meeting.

We closed with the grace

#### Next meeting

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

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