

CTWA Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 at Quay Church

Present: Sandra Ball, Roger Bridgeman, Jo Ellis, Diane Giffard, Alan Hill, Virginia Porter, Father Nigel, Lyn Spall, Barbara Stear Dave Tricker & Doug Waller

Apologies: Rachel & Alex Bass, Penny Bird, Father Edmund, Paul Hambling & Mary Lambert

Lyn welcomed everyone and opened with 1 Kings ch19 vv11-13, does God whisper so that we will draw nearer to him to hear.

Lyn introduced Laura & Marcus Knight from CAP - Christians Against Poverty. Laura is employed by St John's Saxmundham, as the Debt Centre Manager, she covers the area of East Suffolk. CAP work with local churches offering, debt counselling, money management skills and life skills courses.

When helping someone with debt counselling Laura goes with a CAP befriender (volunteer) from a church local to the client, they will discuss the present situation and how the client can go forward. Many who are in debt feel isolated as they cannot afford to go out with friends, it is a very big step for someone to admit they are in difficulty and even harder to accept help.

If a church wishes to get involved there needs to be an ambassador from the church who will offer prayer for CAP and advertise within the church and locally what services CAP can offer. Father Nigel asked whether we should have an ambassador for CTWA, that would attend the meetings and be our link, please ask anyone who you feel would be willing to do this.

This week the Salvation Army will be putting a CAP leaflet in all the food bags they hand out.

Minutes from the last meeting

These were agreed.

Matters Arising

At the last meeting it was agreed to change our name to Woodbridge Area, going forward we will be CTWA. The gentleman who organises our website is looking into changing the name. We also have a new logo, if anybody wants a copy of this, please ask Lyn or Diane to forward.

Brief Report of Recent Events

Lent Lunches

Approx. £900 was raised, but some were better attended than others. Alan does not feel that any Christian message was given out at the lunches and that those who attended were already church members. He has said that in future with all the regulations around food preparation he is not willing to hold the event in their hall. Father Nigel had also been wondering whether we should change how we do these lunches, he feels that different churches should hold a lunch in their own church if they have the facilities, and also that with Christian Aid week coming so soon after, that perhaps we should look at supporting a different charity each year, or each church deciding what charity they wish to support. **Please go away and talk to the members of your churches before the next meeting to see what they feel about these ideas.**

Walk of Witness & Service

It was felt that holding the service outside was beneficial, with a much broader range of churches represented and also with a few people passing by stopping to listen. The question was asked should we still have the walk, as if there are other things going on in your church it makes it a long day, also getting people to bunch up so that they can hear the readings was difficult, however it was felt that overall people appreciated the walk.

Sunrise Service

50 people attended and most stayed for a drink afterwards to enjoy what was a spectacular sunrise, thanks to Alan for organising and leading the worship. It was suggested that maybe next year one of the new ministers may wish to lead.

Finances

Our balance is £1066.42.

Roger has not as yet changed the name on the bank account, but now it has been agreed will.

Recent expenditure

£112 Liability insurance

£52.50 Hire of the bandstand, electric etc for Good Friday service: this is the first time we have been charged.

£50 Hire of the PA for Good Friday service

£10.60 Refreshments for sunrise service

Forthcoming Events

Big Family Day Out

This will take place on 17th July 10-1pm, as in previous years this event is for the local community and as such will be free. There will be bouncy castles, face painting, craft activities, cream teas, a prayer tent etc. There will be acts of worship on the hour which will highlight the activities of local Christian charities. St John's and Quay will not be holding their normal morning worship that day, although preparations for the day are well under way anybody who wishes to help, please let Doug or Lyn know.

A.O.B

Safeguarding

Lyn felt that we needed a discussion about CTWA and safeguarding, whether when we run ecumenical events we should adopt a specific safeguarding policy. It was suggested that the individual churches safeguarding officers could get together for a discussion, please can you let Lyn know who the individuals are in your church.

Town Pastors

There have been no town pastors since lockdown, as only a few were willing to go back to it mainly due to age and energy levels. This was a great way of giving back to our community and showing that we did come out of our churches to help, please can you ask your church members if they would be willing to commit to take part either as a town pastor on the streets, or a prayer person either in the prayer room or at home, and/or to be one of the people running this. I suggest that you put Diane down if people want more details or bring names to the next meeting.

Ukrainian Refugees

Pete Plummer & Father Nigel have been co-ordinating those who want to host refugees (some have already arrived) on 28th May 10-12 in St Mary's House there will be a meeting for those who can help with supporting the families, eg health, education etc.

Churches Minute News

Methodists

Rev Saul Tadzaushe will be taking up his post of minister to the 6 northern Methodist churches in our circuit in September, he will be living in the manse in Woodbridge. He is coming from Zimbabwe with his wife and 2 of his 4 adult children, I hope that he will be able to find time to attend some of the CTWA meetings in the new year once he has 'his feet under the table'.

St Mary's – Woodbridge

They ran a lent course inviting different chaplains to speak each week, this was well supported. Pip Hare gave a talk about her solo round the world yacht race, she is planning to do it all again in 2024. They are holding a flower festival 2nd – 5th June

St Mary's - Bealings

Their service at Easter was well attended with many families. They also held a 'German evening' with music and word.

St John's

On Mondays' they run their 'Hub' café in the church hall and once a month they join with Transition Woodbridge to hold a 'repair café' in the church. Tuesday's they have their toddler group which is attracting about 30 families you don't now have to pre-book. On a Friday they have their youth group (high school age), with approx. 15 attending. Once a fortnight they hold an afternoon praise service for families, lively songs with actions crafts and bible stories. On the alternate Sunday they have a 1 hour evening service at 6.30pm with bible passages, prayer and testimonies. Their new vicar Charles will be moving in over half term, but will not start until 20th June.

Quay

They held a 'Remembering in Love' service over Easter, for those who did not feel they had a proper time and place to grieve for loved ones. They also held an Easter trail around the church premises, or families some of whom are not regular church members. On Good Friday they had a sleep over for 18 of their youth group. On Easter Sunday they had a baptism, which has prompted others to come forward. The pre-school has settled in well. The little hands toddler group do not now need to pre-book. June will see the church taking part in service for the community projects.

St Andrew's

Lay led services have been happening for about 3 months and have been very well received, there are 5 teams on the rota to take these services. Festivals e.g. Easter will either have a Eucharist in both Melton and Ufford or a Benefice service in one or other of the churches. There has been a high demand for items from The Little Pantry.

Salvation Army

We have recommenced all our programmes Parent and Tots is well attended, our Lunch Club is growing steadily, and Coffee Morning and Food Parcels is still very busy, last month we gave out 267 parcels, last week 72 where we had 5 new clients. We have started to get quotes for the building work to begin and hope this will be completed by the summer.

St Thomas's – Sent by Father Edmund

Attendance at mass is still quite low, hopefully as restrictions ease up people will feel happier about coming back.

.....Signed

.....Dated