

# FAKENHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER MEETING MINUTES -7 OCT 2015

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## 1. Opening Devotions

Meeting opened at 7.30. Frank Schofield led us through a Taizé meditation and prayers, including a reading from 2 Peter 1.

## 2. Apologies

From Pastor Bob McKay and other Baptist representatives who had a Church Leadership meeting to attend that night; Freda Banyard and Marion Pruden. Frank read an email from Bob explaining the situation regarding the forthcoming move of the Baptist Church in Fakenham.

## 3. Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed.

## 4. Matters arising

Rev. Andrew King presented a new monthly rota for taking prayers at Cranmer House. These will begin on 25 January with the Salvation Army and take place normally on the last Monday of the month, apart from Bank Holidays and December when prayers they will take place on the 3rd Monday.

25 <sup>th</sup> January	-	Salvation Army	(contact Keith & Rosemary for details)
29 <sup>th</sup> February	-	Fakenham St. Peter & St. Paul	(contact Francis Mason)
21 <sup>st</sup> March	-	Methodist	
25 <sup>th</sup> April	-	Salvation Army	
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	-	Baptist Church	(see Bob Mackay)
27 <sup>th</sup> June	-	Hempton Parish Church	(see Fr. Paul Lockett)
25 <sup>th</sup> July	-	Methodist	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	-	Fakenham St. Peter & St Paul	
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	-	Salvation Army	
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	-	Baptist Church	
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	-	Hempton Parish Church	
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-	Methodist	

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Moira Morley tabled the accounts for 1 January to 30 September and thanked the Churches for sending the requested subscriptions in good time. The balance in the bank was now nearly a healthy £400. The surplus of £233 from the joint Harvest Supper had been sent to Christian Aid as agreed.

## 6. Feedback from previous events

- TASTE Fun Day at Millennium Park (Baptist Church), 4 July. This had been an excellent day, but it was regretted by all that it had not been possible to arrange any event at the High School, although the 'Jesus Live' Bus had visited in May or June. There is even less involvement with the school now than there had been in the past.

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- Harvest Supper (Parish Church), 18 September. Again, a good event, with 67 adults + 4 children present, though numbers stay steady after an initial decline from 100+. Thanks were expressed to Pamela Thomas, Stephen Miles and Frank for organizing it all. Frank reminded people that such events need aggressive marketing with frequent reminders. Next year (any offers?) there could perhaps be a more spiritual element in the content.

### 7. Future events

- Remembrance Sunday 8 November. Organized by the British Legion and the Parish Church. Usually 2.45 pm by the War Memorial, 3.00 pm in the Church. Some input from Andrew, and Fr. Tony and Pastor Bob will also attend. (Salvation Army will be at Briston).
- Remembrance Day 11 November. The churches should show a face at 10.45 at the War Memorial for 2 minute silence at 11.
- Carol Service Wed. 16 Dec. 2.00 pm Methodist Church. This is being organized by the Fakenham Women's World Day of Prayer group. Olive distributed a draft leaflet.
- Women's World Day of Prayer 2016 Fri. 4 March. Possibly at the new Baptist Church. Tbc.
- Town Carol Service 2016 - This is to be thought about – it could be aimed at businesses and organizations in Fakenham and District (e.g. shopkeepers, doctors, nurses, fire brigade, police etc.) and people who do not normally attend a church. The objective would be for people to understand what Christmas is about. We should link in with Kick Start Fakenham.
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18-25 January 2016 - Keith Williams expressed surprise that we were thinking of not celebrating the Week of Prayer during the Octave in January. Opinions were rapidly revised and the following programme drawn up:
  - Mon. 18<sup>th</sup> Baptist Church tbc
  - Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Methodist Church at 2.15 pm followed by tea
  - Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> Mass at Catholic Church at 10.00 am followed by coffee
  - Thurs.21<sup>st</sup> Communion at Parish Church at 9.30 am followed by coffee
  - Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> Salvation Army at 12.30 pm followed by soup
  - Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> Joint Service at the Citadel at 5.00 pm. Ian Randall to preach.

Agreed that the theme at all these services be based on what is published by Churches Together for the Week of Prayer.

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(<https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/WPCU-2016-English-pamphlet.pdf>)

- Lent Course – the 2015 joint courses, run at Fulmodeston in the mornings, the Methodist Church in the afternoons, and the Parish Church in the evenings, with a coming together for the final session were a great success and it was agreed this idea should be repeated. Andrew and Frank were asked to look into materials available and to report back to the Church Leaders' Group for decision.

## **8. Future events to be planned at next meeting.**

**Holy Week** – we should be thinking about events we are all likely to be happy with and discuss these first in the Church Leaders' Group.

**Pentecost** – Sun. 15 May. Perhaps another united meal.

## **9. Our Mission: The 5 Marks of Mission.**

How are we doing? Some uncertainty arose here but it was felt that one of the key words was 'new believers' leading to discipleship and baptism. We also felt that our Churches Together group was leading to a greater understanding of and respect for each others' worship and beliefs and this would make the Christian faith more attractive to non-believers in the wider community. We were also about pursuing activities within our churches and in our daily lives that bore witness to Christ e.g. the Food Bank, taking the Christian message to Cranmer House, debt counselling, the 'Open the Book' initiative in the Primary School.

## **9. Any other Business**

There was none.

## **10. Date of next Meeting**

Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in the Trinity Room of the Parish Church at 7.30 pm

Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 the AGM at 7.30 pm (venue tbc)

**Closing prayer** – Major Keith Williams