

CTWA Meeting held on Tuesday 6th September at St Andrew's Church Hall

Present:, Roger Bridgeman, Jo Ellis, Diane Giffard, Paul Hambling, Mary Lambert, Christine Laverock, Virginia Porter, Father Nigel, Lyn Spall, Barbara Stear, Charles Trefuesis, Dave Tricker & Doug Waller

Apologies: Sandra Ball, Rachel & Alex Bass, Stephen Cole, Father Edmund, Alan Hill

Lyn welcomed everyone and asked them to say who they were and why they felt blessed.

Lyn introduced Christine Laverock, who has been representing CTWA at climate change meetings with Transition Woodbridge(TW) and the Town Council(TC). Christine explained she was part of the 'Time to Reflect' group at St Mary's some of whom felt they needed to see what could be done locally to help stop climate change. They held meetings in the Shire Hall with a Christian perspective on how this issue is affecting the poorest in the world, seen most recently in the dreadful floods in Pakistan. Along with TW and the W.I. they organised a march through Woodbridge in November coinciding with Cop26. Recently there has been a campaign to stop people leaving their cars idling instead of switching the engine off. It was suggested that it would be good if all the churches looked at becoming Eco-churches, more information can be found on the A Rocha website

<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

Along with TW and the TC a Climate Emergency Centre will be set up on the top floor of the Long Shed, which will start by providing resources for people to learn more and act, this will be run by Councillor Eamonn O'Nolan. Woodbridge is the first rural town council to receive money towards a consultation on transport, walking and cycling in the area. East Suffolk Council's 'Ease the Squeeze' <https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/east-suffolk-council-ease-squeeze> want to be able to offer 'warm places' this winter to help people avoid large heating bills, if any of our churches can offer to be open for 6 hours a day for at least 2 days a week they will receive £2000 towards their fuel bills. Christine has sat in on some town council meetings, and feels that they are taking climate change into account in all their decision.

Lyn asked what if anything the churches have been doing, St Mary's at Great Bealing have a cabin in their churchyard, set up as a hide from which to observe birds and butterflies, as much of the churchyard as possible has been left 'wild'. Ufford has done the Eco church survey but hasn't as yet sent it in.

Minutes from the last meeting

These were agreed.

Matters Arising

At the last meeting we were asked to go back to our churches and ask about having the lent lunches at our individual churches, but advertising it as a CTWA event. St Mary's, the Methodist, St John's, St Andrew's and Quay felt they had the facilities to give this a go. It was also discussed at the last meeting whether we should continue to support Christian Aid, as there is week of fund raising in the middle of May. It was decided that we should all support the same charity, but would decide at the next meeting which charity this should be, **please come with your suggestions.**

Brief Report of Recent Events

Big Family Day Out

This is the 5th year that this event has been run, it was started by Quay who have been joined by St John's helping to plan and run the event. It is meant to be a blessing to the people of Woodbridge, a free event where everyone is welcome. This year some 600 ice creams were given away along with 500 hog roasts, the cost of this is quite substantial £4500 this year. Next year's event will take place on 16th July. Doug would like each of the churches to showcase what they get up to, food banks, free pantries, toddler groups, cafes etc. Some of the churches feel they cannot cancel their usual

Sunday service so that everyone worships together at Kingston Fields, and Nigel asked whether it could be in the afternoon to encourage more of our congregations to attend. The question was asked who this event is for, surely mainly those who do not go to church, and although there is a lot of activities taking place which are not particularly Christian there are also opportunities for prayer and worship during the day. It was suggested that each church try and encourage a small group to attend with perhaps 1 person taking a definite role. Doug will take all these points to the planning meeting in January.

Finances

Our balance is £301.92.

Roger has not as yet changed the name on the bank account as it is more difficult having to go into Ipswich, but he will.

Recent expenditure

£600 Big Family Day Out

We will shortly have the expense of the Christmas cards which last year was £1118, Roger will send out the invoices to all churches for our yearly contribution and it was agreed to increase this by the rate of inflation, as it has been the same since at least 2017.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Cards

Lyn has asked Caroline at Just 42 if they would be willing to design the card this year, she will ask the after-school clubs to do this and let Lyn have them by the November meeting. Please can all churches bring the dates of their Christmas services to this meeting, and also anything they wish to advertise, regular cafes, toddler groups etc. Next year after a few years break we will go back to the schools to ask them to design the card

A.O.B

Ukrainian Refugees

Pete Plummer, Nigel and Councillor Bale have been organising English classes, this has been set up at present in St Mary's house with about 30 adults regularly attending, and a creche is available for their children, there has also been a coffee drop in at St John's; people need to understand that the Ukrainians are guests not refugees. Many groups and individuals want to donate money to help but there is no bank account at present and the town council don't want to get involved with that side of things. Nigel asked whether it could be part of the CTWA bank account, but it was pointed out we are not a charity, so it wouldn't be appropriate. The suggestion was made that it could be part of St Mary's PCC a/c as a restricted fund, Nigel will look into this.

New Secretary

Diane would like to step down as secretary if someone else can be found to take on the role. She will still be one of the reps from the Methodists.

Churches Minute News

Methodists

Rev Saul Tadzaushe should have taken up his post on 1st September but is still in Zimbabwe, as his visa could not be applied for until 2 weeks before he started work and this has not yet gone through, even though he has a job and a house to come to, please pray for us and Saul and his wife Taririo at this time. After 32 years the roof of the Octagon (church hall) has begun to fail and over the next few weeks scaffolding will be erected to fix the problem.

St Mary's – Woodbridge

On Wednesday 14th September a benefice quiet day will take place at The Rookery Eyke led by Andrea Skevington. They are holding a Singapore evening on 24th September. There is a deanery pilgrimage starting at Great Bealings, with prayers at each church.

St Mary's - Bealings

They held 2 concerts during the summer, one by Illuminati the other by Ravenscroft.

St John's

Charles started on 20th June, and has been getting to know everyone. A group from the church attended New Wine. They held a church family holiday at Sizewell Hall. This Sunday they are re-launching their children's ministry. There will be an Alpha group starting on 28th September. They will join quay church for their light party.

Quay

They have had a summer series 'Fruits of the Spirit' being led by different members of the congregation. They held a beach baptism at Aldeburgh. They will be running a Christian course on 'parenting children'. In October they will hold their Light Party an alternative to Halloween.

St Andrew's

Bishop Martin has commissioned a new lay reader and confirmed 2 people. They held a summer fair for the people of Melton which was all free. They have distributed welcome cards for people living on the new estates. They are rethinking the 'Little Pantry' after this was abused by people taking more than they needed.

St Thomas's

1 member of the congregation has been leading a group studying the bible from the Carmelite view, this has been held in the evening, but many don't want to come out when its dark so it is being moved to the day time.

Diane mentioned that at the next meeting we will plan next years meeting dates, this year we have only met on a Tuesday and this has excluded some people, please bring your diaries.

Next meeting

This will be held on 8th November either in St John's church hall or the old vicarage.

.....Signed

.....Dated