

CTWA Meeting held on Monday 6th February in Salvation Army Church Hall

Present: Jo Ellis, Dave Tricker, Nigel Prior, Mary Lambert, Saul Tadzaushe, Alan Hill, Diane Giffard, Sandra Ball, Barbara Stear, Virginia Porter, Lyn Spall & Tim Branch

1. Welcome and Prayer

Alan Hill welcomed all to the Salvation Army Church Hall and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies: Charles Trefusis, Roger Bridgeman, Stephen Cole, Paul Hambling, Doug Waller & Edmund Eggeston

3 Minutes from the last meeting and Matters arising

The minutes were agreed.

The Ukrainian Vigil and Turkish / Syrian Emergency Collection was briefly discussed and details would be forwarded to CTWA members.

4. Election of Officers

Chair: Lyn Spall

Vice Chair: Barbara Stear

Treasurer: Roger Bridgeman

Minute Secretary: Tim Branch

5. Brief Report of Recent Events

Christmas card Distribution

All churches in CTWA received Christmas cards. It was noted that some used their parish magazine to distributed them. Going forward, maybe other parishes might wish to consider doing likewise? Delivery numbers were confirmed as accurate.

The size of the cards was discussed and it was agreed that the size for the next printing should be smaller than A5.

It was noted that the price of the cards for 2022 had increased because the quote from the printers had unfortunately not included VAT.

Warm Rooms

St Johns confirmed that, as there had been no take up, they decided not to continue with the initiative.

St Marys Woodbridge confirmed they have had take up and therefore would continue with the initiative.

After a brief review, the question of whether certain venues would be more obvious for those in need, e.g. Scout Hut, was discussed.

Whether the social aspect of the initiative should be more of a focus was also considered. However some thought that social events in church buildings tend to be populated by church members!

Action - Everyone - It was agreed to take this initiative back to our individual churches for review and prayer.

Keeping the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

A prayer and worship event was organised by Dave Tricker at Quay Church and 16 people enjoyed the gathering.

The date of January for the event was questioned but it was confirmed that, as an international event, the date will not suit everyone!

Dave was thanked.

What should be considered to mark this week going forward?

- It was questioned as to whether we should mark the whole 7 day period?
- Should future meetings include food?

- Should future meetings include a background video of events like the Big Family Day Out and the Good Friday walk of witness?

In 2024 the date will be Wed 18th – Wed 25th January, and it was suggested that this is entered into our church diaries.

Action - Everyone – It was agreed to go back to our individual churches for review and prayer, so that on the CTWA meeting in May details can be further discussed and action agreed.

6. Finances

These had been prepared by Roger, circulated and read by Lyn Spall.

The following points were raised:

- What is the CTWA budget for each church in 2023/24? It would be appreciated if churches could consider giving a little extra.
- Christmas cards are an expensive initiative and, at a cost of £1500, is this money well spent?

Action - Everyone – It was agreed that we should consider the purpose of CTWA and come prepared to discuss this during the May CTWA meeting, e.g. What is our Identity, Vision, Mission and Objectives?

7. Forthcoming Events

Lent lunches

The following dates were agreed:

- 2 March – St Marys
- 9 March – St Johns
- 16 March – St Andrews
- 23 March – St Thomas but the venue would be St Marys
- 30 March – Methodists
- 6 April – Quay which would be an evening supper and reflection.

The lunch period would remain as 12:00 – 13:30

Jo Ellis agreed to produce a poster to publicise the above, stating the Woodbridge Ukrainian Hub as the charity and a requested donation of £4.

The poster should be produced in electronic form and circulated to each church so that it can be modified to emphasise when the venue would be at that church. However, church visiting should be encouraged!

Lyn Spall agreed to liaise with Jo Ellis regarding the information and Tim Branch will then circulate!

Action - Jo Ellis/Lyn Spall/Tim Branch

World Day of Prayer

This is a worldwide initiative and formerly known as the 'Women's World Day of Prayer'.

It will be held on 3rd March at Quay from 2:30pm.

See <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

Walk of Witness and Service

It was agreed to start the Good Friday walk from Elmhurst Park, visiting churches whilst carrying the cross.

It was agreed, after some discussion, that it should be a silent/contemplative walk, to include a reading at each church, and end at Elmhurst Park with a brief service at 11:00 that Dave Tricker agreed to lead.

Action – Dave Tricker, co-opting others as required!

Sunrise Service

This service on Easter Sunday will be led by Alan Hill.

Action – Alan Hill

The Deben Yacht Club agreed to be open for refreshments that Jo Ellis agreed to co-ordinate.

Action – Jo Ellis

Transition Woodbridge

It was agreed not to have a stall at this event.

Woodbridge Regatta

This will be on 18th June (Father's Day)

Woodbridge Town Council have asked Churches Together to start the event with a service. This will be 12:00 – 12:30 at the Tea Hut.

Charles Trefusis agreed to lead but, if anyone else would like to take part, please contact Lyn Spall.

Action - Charles Trefusis

Big Family Day Out

This will be 2nd July, 10:00 – 13:30.

In the past this has been led by Quay Church and St Johns, with support by a few individuals from other churches.

It would be appreciated if other churches could consider whether they would like to be more involved and maybe help with the cost?

Action – Everyone – Consider your church involvement so that it can be discussed in the CTWA May meeting.

8. A.O.B

Town Paster Motorola radio set at St Marys Woodbridge

This equipment is no longer used and the offer of use at Churches Together events was not taken up.

It was therefore confirmed that the equipment at St Marys Woodbridge can be turned off.

9. Churches Minute News

Methodists

After a couple of years of COVID restrictions and having no minister, we are looking forward to the future with our new minister Saul and his wife Tariro. They are hopefully starting to settle into what must be a quite different routine for them, especially the weather! Our monthly men's breakfast is usually attended by 10-15 men, and we have now started a ladies group. Our first meeting was coffee and cake at Notcutts, but will hopefully evolve into other social activities. Saul and a small group are planning an away day that we hope will involve many of the members, from all 6 of his churches, and provide an opportunity to get to know each other as we are quite spread out.

St Mary's – Woodbridge

The services through the Christmas period were well attended in particular "Nine lessons and Carols by Candlelight" 19th Dec. and the 4pm. Christmas Eve "Crib service and Christingle" where there was standing room only. Candlemas celebration "*Tumbling in Light*" on 5th February with St. Eds cathedral 'In harmony' project was streamed and very well attended.

St Mary's – Great Bealings

We had a Tombola Stall at the Woodbridge St Mary's Christmas Fayre, and raised £200.

We had a successful Christmas Carol service, with children doing most of the readings. 72 people attending

We joined St Mary's Woodbridge at the beginning of January for the Epiphany service and held our usual mid-month service in Great Bealings

New hardwood churchyard bench installed and blessed in memory of Prof John Midwinter

We planted a number of shrubs and plants as part of the Queen's green canopy. This included 2 trees donated by the Bishop.

Soil samples were taken from the churchyard as part of a God's Acre citizens' science survey by Bangor University

We acted as a collection point for clothes for Earthquake victims.

St John's

St John's, with St Andrew's Bredfield, is prayerfully going through a Vision setting process and we are looking forward to where God will lead us as a church.

Our annual Holiday Club will take place during half term.

Quay

We have started the CAP life skills course and have 4 clients currently. We are exploring planting another congregation and seeking God in what that looks like.

10. Closing Prayer

Lyn Spall closed the meeting with prayer at 9:35

Dates and venues confirmed for 2023

Tuesday 9th May - St Marys

Wednesday 13th September - Quay

Thursday 9th November - Methodist

Next meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 9th May at St Marys at 7:30.

.....Signed

.....Dated