

# Churches Together In Buckingham & District

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 at Well Street United Church

## Present:

Will Pearson-Gee	Rector at St Peter & St Paul's
Tim Edworthy	Minister, Well Street
John Lovelock (Chair)	Deacon at St Bernardine's
Margaret Blankley	St Edmund's, Maids Moreton
Judith Bundock (Treasurer)	St Peter & St Paul's
Ruth Newell	St Peter & St Paul's
Liz Watson	St Bernardine's
Jan Undritz (Secretary)	Well Street United Church

**Apologies:** Val Evans (SSPP) & Cath McCabe (SSPP) have stepped down, Sue Farrington-Smith, Hans Taling

**Welcome and Opening Prayers** were led by John

**Minutes of the last meeting** were agreed as correct by all there and signed by John

## 1. MATTERS ARISING:

### Christmas Services Leaflets

Will said that the delivery of the leaflets by the company, Sure2door, had not worked out as thought and it was agreed that it would not be a good idea to go that route again. After some discussion of whether we should go with printing the leaflet this year or not, it was agreed that we should. Will said that SSPP have an in-house design facility which will release Erik from having to be involved this year. Once printed bundles of leaflets will be sent to each church to deliver as in previous years. However, John pointed out that it was difficult for St Bernardines to be involved in the delivery as his congregation consists mainly of older people and people who come from outlying villages.

**ACTION:** Each church needs to get their Christmas Service times to Will by the end of September by emailing them to [parector@buckinghambenefice.org.uk](mailto:parector@buckinghambenefice.org.uk)

### MK18 Magazine – advertising Christmas Services

It was agreed to do this again this year.

**ACTION:** Jan agreed to liaise with MK18 as in previous years and will contact BEC.

Jan to liaise with Will's PA to get the copy for the services details to meet the deadline.

### Christmas Day Lunch 2014

Erik attended the meeting to report that he was again willing to project manage the event again and, having spoken already to various people, has every confidence that this will go ahead. Professional Chefs, Will and Donna Wilson, have agreed to take care of the kitchen and food preparation for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time. A first meeting will be held in October and notification of this will be sent out to all churches. Erik would welcome all volunteers. There are also sufficient funds to start the ball rolling.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

The theme is 'Salt of the Earth' and material has been prepared by the Christians in Latvia. Material is available on the Churches Together in Buckinghamshire website. It was agreed that the Prayer Event went well last year and Margaret read out some of the notes produced after last year's event (which had been attached to the Minutes of the last meeting – see email 3/2/15). After discussion it was again agreed not to hold a 'combined Churches' service' but to organise another Prayer Event. Liz said that she has spoken to the Boxwells and Sue Ambrose, all of whom are keen to be involved, as well as Margaret.

**ACTION:** Liz to drop by SSPP and book the church for the day on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016.

Liz to contact those people who wish to be involved.

Jan to send Liz and Margaret details of website for information on the theme etc.

### **Ministry to Sheltered Housing**

Liz said that in her Chaplaincy at the Buckingham Hospital someone had said that one of the churches used to do something in each of the sheltered housing complexes in Buckingham. These consist of Chandos Court, North End Court and Brook Court. The first of these 2 do have a 'communal room' where people could meet but the latter does not. Paynes Court was also mentioned but this is 'private housing' and not exactly the same and there is no communal area so it would be difficult to get people together. Tim and Will said that both their churches have services and other events where the people from these complexes could come and already do so. Will suggested that Liz contact Sandra Cosby and Val Evans and discuss it through with them.

**ACTION:** Liz to progress and let us know what transpires.

### **2. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Judith ran through the Financial Report (attached). The Christian Aid monies recorded which were collected last week will be paid back out to CA. By general consensus, it was agreed to give £20 to the Salvation Army Hall for the use of their Hall for the Frugal Lunch. The question of what the insurance policy covers was discussed with regard to the fact it apparently does not cover Holiday Club. It was agreed to leave the insurance policy in situ for what it does cover. Alternative arrangements will have to be made to cover Holiday Club again next year. Will said that the £100 given for the books for the schools was very well received and was money well spent. It was agreed to keep the subscriptions at the same level. There will also be a cheque raised for £60 to be sent to CITB Head Office.

**Action:** Judith to raise a cheque to pay the Salvation Army and to ask for subscriptions to be paid.

### **3. REPORTS FROM THE CHURCHES**

#### **St Edmund's Church, Maids Moreton:**

Margaret reported that at last they have a toilet and servery and is a cause of great rejoicing and extremely useful at the Church Fete Day when it poured with rain. They are now fighting the powers that be for a glass screen at the back of the church instead of the old wooden one. The challenge now is to use the space created to reach out to the community and to have the church open and active on weekdays and not just on Sundays. Various ideas have been put forward for which they are praying and seeking God's guidance as they go forward into the autumn. Sadly, Alison Hodgson lost her battle against cancer in March. Her husband, Andy, used to attend the Churches Together meetings. Alison was a leader of children's work and a great supporter of Holiday Club and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

#### **St Bernardine's Church**

John said that the 'upgrade work' to the garden is now complete and has been used for events and is also used much more in general by the church. The Bishop will visit again next year and hopefully will involve Winslow and Stowe.

#### **St Peter & St Paul's Church:**

Will said that Anne Hamilton, their Families Worker, had now left and they are looking for a replacement. They have just recruited a Worship Leader, Tim, and a new Intern, George Pinnegar, who is gaining some work experience before being put forward for ordination training. Will hopes that the church organ will be back in time for Christmas.

#### **Well Street United Church:**

Tim said that Well Street have secured a Youth Worker, Cameron, through Oasis and he will start work, as part of his training, next week. Well Street are still looking for a site or building for the church.

**Salvation Army:** Margaret Barnes had not responded to emails and there was no report.

#### **4. Review of Events held so far in the 2015 Programme:**

##### **Frugal Lunch**

Judith said that this went well again this year and was well attended. David Blackmore from Christian Aid came to give an interesting talk about the CA 2015 theme. The sum of £237.26 collected on the day was sent off to Christian Aid.

##### **Good Friday**

The service at SSPP went well and was well attended. More than the usual number followed the cross down to the Old Goal. Will said that the PA system had failed somewhat and Jan said that the number of song sheets provided were insufficient – which was a positive in a way! We were all concerned that a great number of people tried to get into the Salvation Army Hall for hot cross buns and tea/coffee which meant that some people just gave up and walked away. It was suggested that we look at ways to deal with this next year.

John said that there would be the usual 'Stations of the Cross' service which was well attended with some new faces in the congregation.

##### **Holiday Club**

Tim said that they had 160 had signed up for Venue 1 and 63 for Venue 2. Things had gone fairly well but he suggested that perhaps the organisation and preparation might benefit from some form of project management to avoid things being missed or too 'last minute'. Lots of children and parents expressed their appreciation at receiving the bibles which had been handed out. Liz said that she would appreciate it if, next year, someone were to come to Church to speak to their congregation about Holiday Club and give suggestions of how people might be able to help. She felt that some people had been put off by the response to their offer to help this year.

**AOB** - There was no AOB

Tim closed the meeting with prayer.

##### **NEXT MEETING DATE & VENUE:**

It was suggested to hold this on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January with Hans to chair at St Edmunds Church. Jan to contact Hans and confirm this with him.