

Churches Together in Woodbridge & Melton
Minutes of meeting held on 9 September 2008, upstairs in St John's Old Vicarage

Present: Rev. Frank Aichele, Roger Bridgeman, Rev. Peter Coates, Beryl Dyer, Revd. Dave Gardner, Rev. Paul Hambling, Rev. Mark Hardingham, Rev. Michael Hatchett, Sandy Henson, Dorothy Holmes, Rev. Kevan McCormack, Julie Mansfield (chair), Elaine Rayner, Capt. Trish Tazzini-Lloyd, Jean Wallace, Capt. Rob Watson, Alan Weller, Ron Woolgar.

Apologies:, Sharon Burrows, Rossalyn Chapman, Brian Clarke, Anthony Colles Karen Davies, Lin Morphy, Fr. Ivan Rudkin.

The chairman opened the meeting with a prayer and Peter Coates and Sandy Henson were introduced and welcomed as new members of the group, representing St Thomas, and the Salvation Army, respectively.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2008 were approved, subject to one amendment namely the inclusion of the following as item 8, 'There was a short discussion about how each of the member churches should appoint its representatives to the group and how long representatives should serve. It was agreed that each church should continue to have two representatives but that it should be for each church to decide how its representatives are chosen and the length of time they should serve.'

3a) All arrangements are in place for John Berg's 'Japan' Christian Aid fundraising event on **12 September, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church**. Over 100 tickets have been sold at £10 each with minimal outlays due to kind donations of wine and food. Michael reminded the group that gift aid forms would be available on the evening so that Christian Aid could maximise the donations.

3b) Julie passed on Catherine Lerner's thanks for the groups's involvement in the upcoming Children's Book Festival. Catherine will liaise directly with St Mary's (Vic Dyer) and WMC (Frank) about the size of the venues and access arrangements.

The group is to hold a **Book Festival Service on Sunday, 26 October 2008, 6.30pm at St John's**. Andrea Skevington will talk about the parables and there will be an Open the Book presentation by an established team. Kevan expressed some disappointment that the service was not included in the advertising literature and Julie agreed she would speak to Catherine Lerner about the production of a poster and flyers.

3c) The group's **Advent Service was confirmed – Sunday, 30 November, 6.30pm at St Andrew's Church**.

3d) Julie asked the group to note that the Open Air Carol Service is probably on 18 December 2008, 6.30pm on the Market Square but this has not yet been formally confirmed by the Rotary Club. The singing will be led by Andrew Lord, others from the OneChristmas Team and children from local primary schools.

3e) The group agreed the date for the next **Service of Christian Unity as Sunday, 18 January 2009, 6.30pm at St Thomas'**. This is a third Sunday and so will replace the usual Taizé service there.

3f) The next **hospice service was confirmed for Sunday, 29 March 2009, 6.30pm at St Mary's**. This will be led and organised by the hospice chaplain, David Flower.

3g) Dave advised the group that the next **Mind, Body & Spirit Fair** will take place at the Community Hall in Woodbridge on the **weekend, 4/5 April 2009**. The group will need to decide whether or not it wishes to have a stall / presence there. In particular, some thought will need to be given to what follow-on event should be offered to those attending. At the very least we should, as a group, provide a leaflet showing what activities and services are generally offered by our churches eg café church and Taizé. This will be discussed at the next meeting when it may be a good idea to have this looked at by a working group.

Issues for discussion:

a) **Christian Aid Matched Funding Scheme**. Frank will shortly be running in another marathon and has offered to be sponsored as part of this scheme. He will send round advertising etc. St Andrew's is having a Christian Aid Tea Party (19 September, 4pm at St Andrew's Rectory). Trish and Julie will look into the possibility of having a ctwm Quizaid evening in 2009. We will then see how far we have got towards our fundraising target of £5000.

There was some discussion about the £5000 target and whether any sums raised over and above this target amount would also be quadrupled and / or whether we could offer any excess to other community groups in our Christian Aid region who were struggling to reach their target. Julie will speak to Eldred Willey, the Christian Aid advisor in Norwich.

b) **Open the Book**. This will be introduced to our area at the book festival (3b above). There will be an OtB presentation, by the Wickham Market OtB team, at each of St Mary's CEVAP, Kyson CP, Woodbridge CP and Melton CP on Thursday and Friday 23 & 24 October. In addition the same group will demonstrate OtB at the Book Festival Service. Julie is liaising with Barbara Gallagher, the OtB Suffolk co-ordinator and Ben Whale of CYM, the Ipswich OtB co-ordinator about how we should then proceed. **Each church will put forward the details of interested volunteers and encourage them to come to the service on 26 October.**

c) **Christmas Card 2008**. Julie has arranged to visit Melton CP to invite them to produce a design this year and to choose a theme.

d) **Lyons Club Contact**. The group agreed that we should again liaise with the Lyons' Club this year to help make up and distribute food parcels. **Any names to be added or removed from last year's list should be notified to Julie.**

e) **Regatta Service 2009**. It was agreed that we should agree to the Regatta C'ee's request to hold a Regatta Service in 2009. The date will be **12 July 2009**. A time-slot will be agreed when the draft programme is produced next year.

f) **Good Friday 2009**. Left until next meeting.

g) **Green Plans for Woodbridge**. Rob gave a brief overview of some of the initiatives already in progress at St John's, such as recycling, green auditing, establishing links with La Rocha, providing info. for the congregation and encouraging awareness. He will look into the cost and availability of different types of bicycle stands and will put together some information about wind turbines and whether this might be a possible project for ctwm.

Michael provided some general information about green initiatives at St Andrew's along similar lines to those at St John's and offered to supply information about LED floodlighting to any interested churches.

It was agreed that 'Green Initiatives' would remain as a permanent agenda item.

h) **Lent Housegroups 2009.** Mark handed out photocopies of pages from 'Building Relationships with God's Love' for the group to consider. At the next meeting we will decide whether or not this will be good material to use for our ecumenical groups.

Reports from churches (briefly)

St John's is looking into whether or not it will be feasible to set-up a street pastoring group in Woodbridge, along the lines of the service provided in Ipswich, about which Elizabeth Beaton came to speak to ctwm over a year ago.

St John's is to repeat its successful Alive event, 23-25 May 2009.

Quay is holding Celebr8 3 – 12 October 2008, comprising a large range of events. Mark will send round advertising.

Quay is hosting a DIY Messiah on 28 March 2009, led by a professional opera singer in its congregation.

There is a member of WMC who is interested in setting up a child contact centre, where children can come and meet with the parent they no longer live with. Frank will provide details for Julie to look into.

5. **AOB** Michael spoke briefly about Scargill Hse in Yorkshire, about the decision to close it and the campaign to have it re-opened. All the info is on the website <http://savescargill.wordpress.com> .

It was agreed that Dave would co-ordinate the nomination and election of office-bearers for the next meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report – attached.

Date of next meeting: 11 November 2008

The meeting closed with prayers.