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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FELIXSTOWE

Minutes of AGM and Forum Meetings

St Philips, Wadgate Road, Felixstowe

Monday 20th May 2024 at 7 pm

	Present	Apologies
Christ Church Felixstowe C of E	Pat George, Dee Balshaw	
Convent of Jesus and Mary		Carol Charles Sister Lucy Skaf
Falkenham St Ethelbert's		
Felixstowe Methodist Church	Sue Hockenhull, Robin Pattinson, Mary Pattinson	Mike Bowtell, Jill Tempest
Kirton-St Mary and St Martin C of E		
Maidstone Road Baptist	Sandra Cooper, Andrew Marfleet, Debby Marfleet	
Old Felixstowe Parish	Rev Chris Hood, Jean Macpherson	Margaret Berlemont, Carl Berlemont
Quakers - Religious Society of Friends		Diane Morden
Ranelagh Road Christian Fellowship		
River of Life Church		Pastor Terry Baker, Pastor Jnaita Baker
St Felix, Roman Catholic	Angela Ashby, Anne Poole, Barbara Lemberon	
St Mary's, Walton	Margaret White, Carolyn Jones, Anne Harvey	
St Martin's, Trimley	Nina Davis	
St John's with St Edmund's	Rev Penny Brinkley, Sandra Watson	
The Salvation Army	Capt. Paul Willimas, Paul Rivett, Christine Hancock, Jackie Fincham, Angela Barbrook, Gemma Saxton	Gill Rivett
United Reformed Church	Rev Adam Earle, Brian Cutler	
St Philips, Wadgate Road	Rev Wendy Smith Dawn Crawford, Winnie Mutum, Isobel Jenkins,	
Mission to Seafarers	Robert Watson	Fr David Simpson, Julian Wong
Boost		
Hope Trust		Tracy Haskins
Felixstowe Town Pastors		Neil Winton
Walton Parish Nursing		Lorna Bellamy
Old Felixstowe Parish Nursing		Helen Hood
CAP		Steve Lineham,
Visitor	Eve Fellingham	

Attendance and Apologies were recorded (see above).

AGM

1. Opening worship was led by St Philip's.
2. Accuracy, approval & signing of minutes of last AGM 24th May 2023
The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed by a show of hands.
3. Moderators Report
The moderators report had been circulated with the Agenda and is attached at the end and the following points were added

The URC has been booked for 2025 for the United Service on the 26th January Grave Talk was very well attended earlier in the year and we are planning another one later in the year

Praise on the Prom is booked for 15th September 2024 and we have also booked access to the Felixstowe Hut so we have use of toilet facilities and possible refreshments. Andy Rayner is away on business and The Felixstowe Salvation Army cannot lead this year because of holidays so we are looking at alternative musical support and will let you know details asap. Any suggestions to the steering group please.

Heritage weekend is in September and we as Churches Together will advertise your church events for you through our social media and newsletter, so please let us have all the details.

We were saddened to hear about the passing of Margaret Condick who has been associated with CTF for a very long time and Andrew Marfleet has written a Eulogy that will be circulated to everyone and will be posted on the Website.

SH thanked all the steering group for their support during the last year and looks forward to working with a new Moderator in a secretarial role with JF who is changing back to being Communications Officer with responsibilities for the website and newsletter.

4. Financial report - Angela Barbrook

AB presented the treasurer's report and said thank you for paying the church subscriptions. Financially this year we are covering our costs just from the subscriptions and the new bank account with Nat West is now an online bank account with the treasurer and moderator being card holders. AB will arrange with the bank to change the card holder to the new moderator.

No questions were raised on the accounts.

5. Appointment of examiner of accounts

Mrs Julie Cowen (postmistress of Walton Post Office) was appointed as examiner of accounts for the following year 2024/2025 and this was approved by a show of hands

6. Reports from organisations supported by CTF

The reports from all the organisations had all been printed and were available to read and are now also available on the CTF Website.

Walton Parish Nursing

It was noted that they now have a lot more complex needs and the addition of Lesley as a Mental Health nurse had made a big difference to the workload.

Old Felixstowe Parish Nursing

Helen & Anne have been very busy since it commenced and it was noted that this is all volunteer led.

Boost

Boost are celebrating 10 years this year and pleased to now have a Primary School Chaplain. There will be a special service of celebration of ten years on the 24th November 2024 with Bishop Martin, please watch out for the details.

CAP

It was sad to read in the report that the debt centre are winding down but CAP is still very much present in Felixstowe and will be in varying forms providing support through debt advisors and need to be in our prayers.

The Compass

Now in their 4th year and although they no longer run social groups, they work on an appointment basis and work as a free, holistic, non-judgmental face to face service.

Felixstowe Town Pastors

The free Freddos are still going out and although post pandemic Felixstowe has changed, the need for Town Pastors is still very much here. TP also will be at Latitude again this year working with the Festival Pastors and if you are interested then please let them know.

Hope Trust

Hope Trust have a very busy social life and lots of outings; there is no excuse to be lonely in Felixstowe but they do understand and home visits can be arranged!

Mission to Seafarers

Old smart phones are required and can be dropped off at St Johns Church for the seafarers, many mobile phones get lost at sea and cannot afford to be replaced and they are the only communication with Home. Please get involved with the national Biscuit Day or the BBQ's and it won't be long till Christmas ☺

Beta Group

Eve Fellingham brought to our attention this youth group for young people at senior school (you don't have to be a committed Christian).

Beta is held at the Convent on alternate Thursdays 7.15 to 8.45pm. For further information contact felixstoweyouthalpha@gmail.com Prayer requests for youth workers and finance.

7. Re-affirming of organisations supported by CTF

The groups were all acknowledged and re-affirmed by a show of hands.

8. Approval to accept Old Felixstowe Parish Nursing as additional organisation to support.

SH requested that CTF would add Old Felixstowe Nursing to the group of supported organisations. This was agreed and approved by a show of hands.

SH then left the chair of the meeting for the elections and BC took the Chair

9. Elections of Officers

Moderator: Rev. Penny Brinkley was nominated and seconded and those present agreed - St John's & St Edmunds

Deputy Moderator: This post is vacant

Secretary: Sue Hockenhill was nominated and seconded and those present agreed - Felixstowe Methodist Churches

Treasurer: Angela Barbrook will stand again as Treasurer - The Salvation Army

Steering Group Committee

Jackie Fincham - Communications Officer - The Salvation Army

Jean Macpherson - Old Felixstowe Parish

Brian Cutler - URC

Angela Ashby - St Felix Catholic Church

The Moderator (PB) then took the chair and SH took over as secretary for the Forum.

Moderators (SH) report is attached.

Churches Together in Felixstowe Moderator's Report May AGM 2024 Since our last Forum Meeting in November 2023:-

1. We held an Advent session in December based on the short film "The Chosen".
 2. We entered a CTF tree of angels in the Salvation Army tree festival.
 3. In the January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:
 - a) We went on a Pilgrimage, visiting the churches in the town from St Mary's Walton to the Convent, stepping inside each church for prayer and stopping mid-way for refreshments at the Salvation Army. An estimated 50 Pilgrims in total came and went.
 - b) Our United Service was held at St Peter & St Paul Church and we thank all those in Old Felixstowe Parish who helped with the service. Our speaker was Bishop Peter Collins, Catholic Bishop of East Anglia. The retiring collection raised £540 which was shared between the two Parish Nursing schemes in the town.
 - c) Later in the Week of Prayer we held a "Grave Talk" session at the Salvation Army, led by Rev Penny Brinkley, which gave an opportunity to talk about death, dying, end of life. We plan another "Grave Talk" session Thursday 10th October 2.30pm - 4.00pm at Maidstone Rod Baptist Church.
 4. Our Ecumenical Lent Course was based on the film "Chocolat" offering 5 weekly sessions at 5 venues with an estimated 90 attendees. The unsold course booklets & those returned have been donated to Chaplain Josh Hunt to use with the Theology Club at Felixstowe School. The finale was a delicious Lent Meal after Easter prepared by Diana Barnard & her team at the Salvation Army. We are looking for a suitable lent course based on a film to use for next year. In addition we are planning a lent study based on the book "The Nail" by Stephen Cottrell (Archbishop of York), with The Wool Baa shop agreeing, in principle, to host evening sessions.
 5. Our Easter Services included the annual Good Friday service at the Triangle led by the Worship Band & Salvation Army Band with Rev Andrew Dotchin as speaker and Mick Warner as compere. Our thanks to everyone who took part including readers from different churches and Town Pastors. 275 service sheets were given out with more needed. The following day was our Sunrise Service attended by an estimated 90 people with our thanks to Andrew Rayner for organising it and to Rev Marcus Mak as speaker.
 6. A Praise on the Prom in the Seafront Gardens is booked for Sunday 15th September 3.30pm -5.00pm. In addition we have booked The Hut which has potential to offer refreshments & toilets.
 7. On the Ministerial front we bade farewell to Rev Marcus Mak (Christ Church) at Easter. Rev Abe Konadu-Yiadom (Felixstowe Methodist Church) departs in July. We have met with Father David Simpson the newly appointed Port Chaplain, Felixstowe & Haven Ports. We are aware of a significant number of churches interregnum, still without Ministers, and the burden this places on the laity and other Ministers in the town.
 8. At the AGM we will elect officers for the next year. Rev Penny Brinkley (St John's) is willing to stand as Moderator. In which case I am willing to stand as Secretary, leaving Jackie Fincham as "Communications Officer" (website, newsletter, etc.). This does not exclude anyone else from standing for office. Our continued wish is to have representation of all denominations on the Steering Group. So if you feel your church is not represented please consider if there is someone who would be willing to serve on the Steering Group.
- My thanks to all the Steering Group who have served over the last year:
Sue Hockenhull (Felixstowe Methodist Church) - Moderator
Rev Penny Brinkley (St John's & St Edmund's) – Deputy Moderator
Jackie Fincham (Salvation Army) – Secretary
Angela Barbrook (Salvation Army) - Treasurer
Jean McPherson (Old Felixstowe Parish) – Prayer Coordinator
Anne Poole (St Felix) who has retired and is replaced by Angela Ashby
Brian Cutler (URC)
9. Jean Macpherson has decided to step down as Prayer Coordinator due to pressure of other commitments. The July Community Prayers will be her last session. At the Forum we need to consider how best to progress our prayer life – different day, different time, quarterly, physical or zoom. We thank Jean for all the hard work she has put in to organising our prayer sessions.
 10. Our thanks to Jackie for producing a regular newsletter and keeping the website up to date which prove a good way to advertise events & pass on information. We still haven't found a simple solution to reaching those not on email so we rely on you to pass on information to your congregation.
 11. CTF continues to support Christian organisations in the town as stated in our constitution:
 - (ii) *Churches Together in Felixstowe* will seek to support such groups and charities by endorsing their mission and ministry, promoting their activities on the *Churches Together in Felixstowe* social media, website and mailings, praying regularly for them, and providing opportunities for them to raise awareness and funds at *Churches Together in Felixstowe* events.Currently these are Boost School Chaplain, CAP, Hope Trust, The Compass, Felixstowe Town Pastors, Mission to Seafarers, Walton Parish Nursing. At the AGM we shall get your approval to adopt Old Felixstowe Parish Nursing as an additional organisation for CTF to support. We note that Felixstowe CAP have made the decision to wind down and we give thanks for all the support they have given over the years to people with debt issues. We shall pray for the organisations at this Forum meeting.
 12. Heritage Weekend is 7th & 8th September. If your church decides to celebrate its heritage in some way e.g. talks, open house, coffee morning, exhibition, then let us know and we will advertise in our newsletter.
 13. We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Margaret Condick in March. Margaret had a passion for ecumenism and was very supportive of CTF serving as Treasurer, Secretary and Moderator over many years. She was also active with Churches Together Suffolk. (Andrew Marfleet has written a eulogy on behalf of CTF in a separate document.)
 14. We are delighted that we are able to meet at St Philips Church for our AGM & Forum. The team will tell us their story of how they have become a church plant. An inspiring story for us all.

Sue Hockenhull (Moderator 2023/2024)

FORUM MEETING

The meeting was then chaired by Rev Penny Brinkley as Moderator with Sue Hockenhull as secretary.

1. The minutes of the last Forum meeting held 22nd November 2023 were approved.

2. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Community Prayers

Thanks were given to Jean McPherson as prayer coordinator who had organised the monthly zoom CTF Community Prayer sessions but would step down in July. The meeting was asked how we should continue our prayer life. The most popular suggestion was to try quarterly sessions in person with a roving day and time set out as a year's programme. To ask for prayer points from churches and organisations which could also be passed on to use in church services.

4. The Ministry at St Philip's Church, Wadgate Road

a) Margaret White (Pop-Up Shop)

St Philip's began in 1952 as a daughter church of St Mary's and was rebuilt 1957 and had a huge Sunday School. It closed 1990 looking tired and unloved. Did it have a future?

In 2016 it opened as a Pop-Up Shop Tuesday mornings offering food (£2 a bag) to a deprived area with few community facilities. Food comes from Lidl, Walton Bakery, Greggs and paid deliveries from FareShare.

It serves all ages with lots of elderly who come for the company as their only social event of the week.

Generally 45 people come collecting for 120 people.

Emergency bags of food are also available.

b) Carolyn Jones (Volunteer Manager The Hub)

Following on from the Pop-Up it was felt the community wanted more from St Philip's. The pandemic stopped all activity but gave time for prayer to get ready for a new initiative. It led in 2021 to The Hub on Thursday mornings.

Each week The Hub starts with morning prayer and provides an inclusive place, a free lunch (thanks to Greggs), conversations, craft, Parish Nurses for health issues, CAP, internet access and budgeting skills. It also provides lunches in the school summer holidays for families.

They have helped 100 people struggling on the edge of benefits by providing essential items.

The building has come alive thanks to an amazing team of volunteers.

They have a project to refurbish the kitchen.

c) Wendy Fellingham (Worship)

St Philip's has been a community followed by a church.

They tried at first a monthly café church which didn't meet the need.

Then September 2022 a weekly church developed using a team from St Mary's.

The worship is café-style, relaxed (remain seated), informal, to a smallish group (20-25 people) serving many with no church background and those who are "life-weary, wounded and defeated".

There have been baptisms and celebrations.

It provides "something special" and is described as "like an A & E in a hospital".

There is a wish to be fed and to form home groups.

d) Rev Wendy Smith

Rev Wendy was ordained 2010 as an OLM (Ordained Local Minister).

In 2019 she was diagnosed with breast cancer needing treatment through Covid, lockdown & requiring isolation. Then followed a difficult family situation that left her lost.

The Hub became a safe place for her to come for company and help. She was prayed back into ministry. In 2023 she renewed her vows and felt able to put her collar back on again and has become "the dog-collar for St Philip's". St Philip's is where she feels she is meant to be.

Rev Penny then followed with prayers for St Philip's and CTF.

5. Closing Prayers

Seated around tables with the reports for the organisations groups were invited to share together a time of prayer.