



Minutes AGM & FORUM

Monday 1st June 2026 7.00pm

Felixstowe Methodist Church at Trinity, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe

	Present	Apologies
Christ Church Felixstowe	Rev Dom Turner, Kim Balshaw	
Convent of Jesus and Mary		
Falkenham St Ethelbert's		
Felixstowe Methodist Church	Sue Hockenhull, Gemma Saxton, Robin Pattinson, Mary Pattinson, Diana Robinson, Michael Peck, Jill Tempest	Rev Paulson Devasahayam Neil Hepplethwaite, Alison Davies
Kirton-St Mary and St Martin C of E		
Maidstone Road Baptist	Sandra Cope, John Cope, Mick Warner, Debby Marfleet, Andrew Marfleet,	Corinne Stockdale, Delyth Mayhew, Sandra Cooper
Old Felixstowe Parish	Jean Macpherson	Rev Chris Hood ,Rev Georgina South, Rev David White, Carl Berlemont, Margaret Berlemont,
Quakers - Religious Society of Friends	Annette Kilworth	Susan Moreton
Ranelagh Road Christian Fellowship	Christine Lee, Colin Lee	Andy Piper
River of Life Church	Pastor Rob Payne	
St Felix, Roman Catholic	Father Michael Smith, Angela Ashby, Barbara Lambert	Anne Poole, Ann Kearney
St Mary's, Walton	Anne Harvey, Linda Tempest	
St Martin's, Trimley	Nina Davis	
St John's with St Edmund's	Rev Penny Brinkley, Rev Helen Rengert, Rob Watson, Sandra Watson	
The Salvation Army	Angela Barbrook, Jackie Fincham	
Felixstowe United Reformed Church	Rev David Rees, Brian Cutler	
St Philips, Wadgate Road		
QVSR Seafarers Centre/Felixstowe Port	Josh Geddis-Pile	
Boost	Josh Hunt, Alan Peats	
Hope Trust		Tracey Hoskins
Felixstowe Town Pastors		Rev Peter Livey, Rev Liz Livey Neil Winton

Walton Parish Nursing		Lorna Bellamy
Old Felixstowe Parish Nursing		Helen Hood
The Compass	Dee Balshaw	
Visitor	Emma Scott (pianist)	Samson Jegede (RCCG Dominion Parish)
Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum	Alan Muchal, Stephen Wyatt	

AGM

1. Rev Penny Brinkley as Moderator welcomed everyone to Felixstowe Methodist Church, Trinity.
2. Attendance & apologies were recorded as given.
3. Opening worship was led by Gemma Saxton.
4. The minutes of the previous AGM held 12th May 2025 were accepted & signed.
5. There were no matters arising.

6. Moderator's Report from Rev Penny Brinkley

This was circulated at the meeting:

Yet another year has passed and I am still enjoying, overall, being the Moderator for Churches together in Felixstowe. It really is a privilege to serve the churches of our town in this capacity and if you are willing look forward to continuing to do so for the foreseeable future.

Since our Forum in November at MRBC, a lot has happened.

- 1) Christmas has come and gone, with us hosting a book study at Evolve Cakes on Paula Gooder's book Women of the Nativity. Although we started out with several attendees, we stopped before we had finished the book as we were all getting busier and the numbers had dropped to just 3 of us.
- 2) We again put a tree into the Salvation Army Tree festival, which Sue did a lot of the work for, but left to others to put up on the day as she had her second knee op. (we are very glad to say all went well and as you can see she is now back in full swing again)
- 3) In January, for the week of Christian Unity,
 - We had a successful CTIF Prayer meeting at St Felix, where we were welcomed warmly by the church.
 - The annual Pilgrimage took place, visiting all the churches between St Mary's, Walton and the Convent, with a stop for refreshments at the Salvation Army. This was well supported.
 - Our United Service was held at the River of Life with Pastor Rob Payne, giving the address. We offer a big thankyou to all involved in making this a successful service, especially Songster Leader Kevin for leading the choir. Our retiring collection was shared between "The Compass" and "Boost"
- 4) Our ecumenical Lent course this year was based on the film 'Casablanca' offering 5 weekly sessions in various venues and this year Kesgrave joined in with us again, This year the uptake wasn't as large as other years, therefore we didn't have a meal afterwards as it was felt there wouldn't be a big enough uptake to make it worthwhile. We are considering whether we have a rest from organising a town-wide Lent course next year and just advertise anything individual churches are putting on themselves. Thoughts regarding this would be much appreciated.

We also held a second course based on Paula Gooder's book 'Women of Holy Week' at Evolved Cake company, in the town, which was well received and led to some lively and thought-provoking discussion., We held this late afternoon and found it to be a more suitable time for everyone. A big thankyou goes to Jack and Molly for hosting us

- 5) Our Good Friday service at the Triangle was again well supported and 330 service sheets were given out. A big thank you goes to Andy Rayner and his team for all the music and electronics, the Worship Band and Salvation Army band, the singers, Readers, Town Pastors and everyone who turned up and made it a very lovely service.

The following day was our Sunrise service, 6.15am, although probably later than usual it was still a little too early for me, but happily not for many of you. We estimate 90100 attended who enjoyed an amazing service with a beautiful sunrise. So again, a big thank you goes to Andy Raynor and Rev Helen Rengert as speaker.

6) I am pleased to say that all our churches, at the time of writing this, have a minister as we welcomed Shonaidh Marsh to MRBC and Rev Helen Rengert to Felixstowe Parish. Our prayers are with Rev Enid Pow, who is still unwell and all at Walton Parish.

7) We are still looking for people to stand on the steering committee, so please give it some thought and prayer as to whether you feel you may be called to serve our town in this way. It isn't an arduous task. We hold a Steering committee meeting about every 6 weeks, now they are during the daytime, but this isn't set in stone and we would be happy to move to evening meetings if need be.

A big thank you to all who have served on the Steering Group this year

Rev Penny Brinkley (St John's & St Edmund's) – Moderator

Deputy Moderator - Vacant

Sue Hockenhull (Felixstowe Methodist Church) - Secretary

Gemma Saxton (Felixstowe Methodist Church) – Events Manager

Jackie Fincham (The Salvation Army) – Communications

Angela Barbrook (The Salvation Army) - Treasurer

Jean McPherson (Old Felixstowe Parish)

Angela Ashby (St Felix Catholic Church)

Brian Cutler (United Reformed Church)

8) A big thank you goes to Jackie for our newsletters and for keeping the website up to date. Please continue to give us information on events etc. so that our newsletters will be of interest, also let us know about what you've enjoyed at events with photos if possible and then I'm sure we can add a section for them and encourage people to come to them next time.

9) We are very grateful for Felixstowe Methodist @ Trinity for agreeing to host our AGM and Forum this year and for Josh agreeing to answer questions about himself and Stephen for agreeing to speak to us about Fairtrade.

In addition to the report:

i) Rev Brinkley reported that she holds regular get-togethers for the Ministers which have been appreciated as a way of supporting each other. They have taken the form of a brunch, lunch & evening meal using local businesses.

ii) Community Prayers continue through the year but we are in need of a Prayer Coordinator to organise the events.

iii) Rev Brinkley suggested the idea to hold an informal pop-up carol singing session in December, perhaps at the Triangle.

iv) It was explained there was no CTIF Pentecost Service this year as many of the Steering Group were away so not available to organise. There was a wish to hold another one.

7. Financial Report – Angela Barbrook, Treasurer

A financial statement was circulated at the meeting.

Every church had now paid subs for this year.

Rev Dom questioned why there was a difference in the subscriptions from 2025 to 2026 and Angela explained it was because last year some churches had not paid until this financial year so in theory it looked like they had paid twice in one year.

The meeting appointed Julie Cowan as examiner of accounts for the coming year.

8. Reports from Organisations supported by CTIF

Reports were circulated at the meeting for BOOST, The COMPASS, Felixstowe Town Pastors, Hope Trust, Walton Parish Nursing. These ARE available to view on our website (along with Old Felixstowe Parish Nursing).

9. Policies

The following policies:

- a) Safeguarding
- b) Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- c) GDPR, Data Protection & Cyber Security
- d) Code of Conduct

These had been prepared by the Steering Group, circulated at the meeting & made available to view on our website.

The safeguarding policy was unanimously approved by the meeting.

Proposed: Nina Davis Seconded: Alan Peats

Jean Macpherson was appointed as Safeguarding Officer for CTiF.

Proposed: Rev Penny Brinkley Seconded Christine Lee

Jean reminded us that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

The following policies: b) Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, c) GDPR, Data Protection & Cyber Security
d) Code of Conduct were adopted unanimously by the meeting.

Proposed: Andrew Marfleet Seconded: Annette Kilworth

All the policies will be available on our website & updated each year for approval at the annual AGM.

8. Election of Officers

The current officers were prepared to stand for another year.

a) Moderator – Rev Penny Brinkley was re-elected

Proposed: Jill Tempest Seconded: Barbara Lamberton

b) Treasurer – Angela Barbrook was re-elected.

Proposed: Jean Macpherson Seconded: Kim Balshaw

c) Secretary – Sue Hockenhull was re-elected.

Proposed: Barbara Lamberton Seconded: Rev David Rees

d) The Steering Group was re-elected as:

Angela Ashby, Brian Cutler, Jackie Fincham, Jean Macpherson, Gemma Saxton.

Proposed: Barbara Lamberton Seconded: Jill Tempest

It was highlighted that a Prayer Coordinator is much needed & also a Deputy Moderator plus more representatives to the Steering Group.

FORUM

1. The minutes of the previous meeting held 10th November 2025 had been circulated on the website & at the meeting & were accepted & signed (subject to the title changed from AGM & Forum to Forum).

Proposed: Mick Warner

Seconded: Jean Macpherson

2. Matters arising

i) Dee Balshaw queried the new worship communities in the town. It was stressed that they would be welcome to attend our meetings, events & join our circulation list.

ii) Rev Helen Rengert, at the last meeting, had raised a vision for a 24/7 prayer space in the town. We were asked to keep praying into it & that it needed time before it was taken forward.

3. Chaplain QVSR (Queen Victoria's Seaman's Rest)

The meeting was introduced to Josh Geddis-Pile, Chaplain at the QVSR Seafarer's Centre.

Josh told us he was 26 years old, had been in Suffolk for 5 years & Chaplain at QVSR for 2 years, working at the Ports of Felixstowe & Ipswich. (QVSR has Ports around the UK.)

His role is to look after the seafarers & involves climbing gangways & going on ships. 95% goods coming into the UK come by ship.

Josh had worked at a reception of a GP surgery when he felt called to God's ministry. He has been recommended for training into ministry. Josh is also a youth enabler for the East Anglia Methodist District.

Josh welcomed the invite to the Ministers Get-Togethers.

Churches can help by continued prayers for the Centre & staff, knitting teddies & hats, gifts of sweets, chocolates & toiletries.

Josh is happy to host coffee mornings at the Centre. (The Centre is open 10am to 10pm every day for coffee.) (Josh did say that the centre is not manned all the time but access to the key safe can be gained from the port security)

CTiF offer to help by sending information about the Centre to contacts.

Father Michael Smith from St Felix informed us there is a new Catholic Stella Maris Port Chaplain– Deacon Rick Jones and there is also an Anglican Port chaplain

Rob Watson invited churches to each take a service at the Centre once a year, as was done in the past. It was felt Ministers could discuss this at their Get-Togethers.

4. Felixstowe Fairtrade

Stephen Wyatt, as Chair, brought us up to date with the Felixstowe Fairtrade Forum.

The Forum works with the Town Council & encourages local shops & businesses to use Fairtrade goods.

The meeting viewed a video presented by local school children challenging us with "Could you do more?" & "Give thought to the supplier of the goods".

Fairtrade is not a charity. It challenges free markets to give fair pay to growers & farmers. A contract guarantees a better price which gives sustainability.

Churches were encouraged to serve Fairtrade products. A Fairtrade stall is available at Trinity every second Thursday 10-12noon. Catering packs are available if ordered in advance.

One Fairtrade shop exists in Suffolk at Upper Brook Street, Ipswich.

5. Closing Worship was led by Gemma Saxton taking the form of open prayers for the town followed by the Grace.

