



Minutes of the 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	Gemma Saxton, Robin Pattinson, Mary Pattinson, Diana Robinson, Michael Peck, Jill Tempest, Sue Hockenhull	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 & Dawn 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		
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	

1. Minutes

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

a) 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.

b) 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)

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.