

Calne Partnership of Churches Meeting
Thursday 13th October 2016 at 7.30 pm
Venue: Calne Baptist Church
Minutes

Member Church	Representatives Present
Calne Baptist	Francis Bosworth, Sam King, Stan Woods
Calne Methodist	None present
Dayspring	None present
Parish of Calne & Blackland	Bob Kenway, Kathryn Miller
St Edmund's RC Parish	Vincent Curtis, Elizabeth Hitchens, Patricia Davies
Member Church	Apologies Received
Calne Baptist	Terry Mills
Calne Methodist	Wendy Tucker, Derek Gard
Dayspring	Carole West
Parish of Calne & Blackland	
St Edmunds RC Parish	

Clause 10 of the constitution states that. "A quorum of the Committee shall be one representative of each Member Church.

There being only three of five members represented at this meeting, **the meeting was declared non-quorate**, and that any decisions made would need to be referred to the absent member churches for ratification. So as to expedite any actions relating to decisions in these minutes absent members are respectfully requested to urgently read these minutes and communicate their affirmation to the entire content, or voice any objections to any of the content to the Secretary by email without delay.

Clause 7 of the constitution states that. "Representation on the Calne Partnership of Churches Committee: Each Member and Associate Church shall be represented by three lay persons and by the ministers of that Church."

Ministers are respectfully requested to ensure at least one of their appointed members is able to attend each quarterly meeting to ensure that business agreed can be implemented without need for ratification by absent members.

Welcome & Opening Prayer by Sam King

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2016

- Any omissions or errors to be noted and the minutes corrected. **None declared.**
- To agree the minutes as a true record and chairman to sign. **Unanimously agreed by those present, having attended the previous meeting, the chairman signed a copy of the minutes.**
- It was noted at the meeting that the previous meeting (20th July 2016) in fact had **not been quorate** having only four of five members represented. Consequently, the proceedings of that meeting need to be respectfully referred to the absent member for ratification.

3. Matters Arising

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- a. **British Youth for Christ** – Steve Dewar (Youth Worker) – training offer
Steve had reported to Francis Bosworth that he had received no contact from any church since his presentation. Bob mentioned in relation to youth work that at the last town council meeting, he was asked if the churches could employ a youth worker, because the Town Council had not funds to do so. The work of the Open Blue Bus was cited as youth work previously in the town and that it was hoped this would recommence in 2017 (date to be advised). Sam thinks a detached youth worker might be an answer, employing a student youth worker part-time. Stan mentioned that “Time for God” (<http://timeforgod.org/>) was still in existence having run for 50 years and could be another way of obtaining a youth worker at modest cost.
We were reminded that Steve Dewar (Youth for Christ) is keen to obtain access to John Bentley School.
Action: Bob to speak to the Principal, Jason Tudor, about and contact Steve as to the response.
Action: Stan to Write to Cllr. Howard Marshall to invite him to the next meeting to talk about the town Youth needs.
- b. **Taize style service** – Sunday 18th September – St Edmunds – Feedback
It was noted that the service was well organised, providing a fruitful time of meditation in words and music and enjoyed a reasonable attendance.
Action: Elizabeth to thank Jane Murphy, St Edmunds, for arranging the service and music.
- c. **Churches Centre Proposal (Westbury - Crosspoint visits)**
No visits done – Stan said he was in Westbury every Tuesday, but Crosspoint is open only Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat, and was unable to visit them on other days. Sam noted that Warminster also has a centre that would be worth visiting.
Action: Sam agreed to try to pursue it towards a visit and will take another representative with him.
- d. **Guinness Book of Records Event (Supporting Activity)**
The supporting activity of a possible “Flash Mob” choir has not progressed so far, but was still an interesting objective. Sam explained what was happening with the usual Lantern parade which would meet up with the nativity play at The Green and where primary schools children would read passages of the nativity story.
“Flash Mob”: Sam suggested that perhaps a single carol “Unto us a child is born” could be performed, but it needed someone to organise it.
Action: Sam will speak to organisers Rachel Rounds from the Bible Society and Tracey Howell from the Town Council to see if they like the idea, then pursue someone to organise it.
- e. **Christmas Day Lunch (Update - Stan)**
Stan gave a brief update on progress.

Churches encouraged and requested to help with the following ongoing

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needs:

- Volunteer as helpers at the Lunch, ideally all the time (11am-5pm), or say 11am-2.30pm and 2.30pm to 5pm.
- Volunteer as drivers to take guest to the lunch (between 11.30—12.30) and/or to take guests home again (between 3.30-4pm)
- Ministers/Leaders requested to nominate suitable guests from their knowledge of the needs in the community.
- All information can be found at www.calnexion.org.uk/cdl or call Stan Woods on 01249 814499 or 07979 652783

f. Open Blue Bus (Update – Terry)

In Terry's absence Stan reported on his behalf that: Blue conversion work is progressing. Funds are still required and applications for grants are being submitted. Future garaging still needed for when the Bus is in operation.

Action: Francis (and any other members) to check possibilities.

g. Signatories to the CPC account (Derek)

This item is covered in the main agenda item 4 below.

h. Ecumenical walk Sunday 25th Sept (feedback)

Elizabeth thanked Kathryn for opening up and arranging the tea venue ready to receive the walkers, and for Jon Forsyth for organizing it. The walk was enjoyed by members from most churches in the town. It was a lovely day and the blackberries on the way were delicious! There was a desire to do it again next year.

It was proposed that details of a walk be available for information and diaries in time for the April meeting.

Action: Kathryn to ask Jon Forsyth if he will organize a walk for 2017 and have the information ready for the April meeting, and for Jon to inform all churches in the town about it.

i. Churches Together – Framework for local unity in mission (to be tabled at AGM 2017) For information only.

j. The Retelling of St Marks Gospel.

“amazing” and “brilliant”, “well attended”, “very moving”.

Could have been a West End Review!

Christianity Explored: as a result of the “Retelling”, eventually two groups will run led by Sam and Bob - 3 and 4 participants to date respectively, but Bob believes more will join.

k. Open advent service (Bob)

This will take place on Wed 30th Nov 6.30pm at St Mary's Church.

All are encouraged to attend.

Action: Stan to add to diary of events and circulate with other dates set in this meeting.

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- I. **Financial procedures** (moved from main agenda item as a matter arising)
No input had been received from members on this circulated before the July meeting and tabled for decision at this meeting. Stan reiterated that it was important to have such controls for any organisation big or small. It was agreed that a copy would be sent out again for members to approve or amend by 18th November 2016, so that they can be ratified at the AGM in January.
Action: Stan to attach to these minutes with a covering note.
Action: All Ministers/Member reps to read and agree or amend to Stan Woods by 18th November.

4. Treasurer's Report (Summary of Accounts)

In Derek's absence Stan presented his report on a slide:

*"The balance of our bank account is currently **£516.09***

There are no outstanding payments and all members have paid their subs.

With regards the bank account signature I have sent the documents back to Mary p Davies today and asked her to take all the papers into Lloyds with her ID documents. They will then check them and process the paperwork."

Bob reminded the meeting that the Partnership agreed to defray the cost of refreshments for the St Marks Gospel Event. Bob submitted a claim for £44.00 with receipt.

Action: Stan to send claim and receipt to Derek Gard and ask him to raise a cheque and send it to Sam King for signature by Sam and Kathryn Miller.

5. Prayer

Elizabeth led the meeting in a time of prayer.

6. ~~Christianity Explored~~ (covered under matters arising above)

7. Open the Book

Bob had not been able to make contact with his training contact.

Action: Bob to check again and if this is not possible...then:

Action: Sam will ask the Bible Society to arrange to come in Jan/Feb 2017 to do the training for any individuals from the churches who would like to be involved with this worthwhile project.

Sam suggested that it could also be promoted as part of "Wordfest 2017" to all schools in the area as this is all about communication.

Action: Sam to contact Tracy Howell or other organiser of Wordfest to make the suggestion.

8. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18th – 25th Jan 'Crossing Barriers'

The meeting agreed a series of events for the week.

Prayer in various churches during the week including a United Service as follows:

- Bring and Share Lunch Wednesday 18th at Calne Methodist (subject to their agreement).
- Prayer Breakfast - Saturday 21st 8-8.30am start (Time TBC) at Calne Baptist Church

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- United Service - Sunday 22nd Jan 4pm at Calne Baptist Church
- Prayer at St Mary's Tuesday 24th Jan at 6pm
- Prayer at St Edmund's Wednesday 25th at 6pm

Action: Stan to ask Wendy to confirm if this lunch date is acceptable.

9. Lent Course (Bob)

No clear outcome from discussion on this. However, it was mentioned that an informal Ecumenical Group meets in the town (formerly at The Wharf) each Lent and follows a course of their choosing. It was suggested that others might ask to join this and make more than one group if many were interested.

Action: Kathryn to ask "the group" that meets for lent if they could accept others and/or choose and recommend a course for Lent that other groups might like to follow to have a shared experience in the town. If this is agreed then "Opening" and "Closing" services might be arranged.

10. Government Supported Refugee Scheme (Sam King)

A number of people are in Calne already formally looking after refugee families. Sam mentioned that the government scheme that was circulated is more than just supporting. It entails financial commitment to new families for up to two years. For full details please read the document circulated.

It is also possible to become a volunteer supported directly for the local authority. Elizabeth described how she had started to become involved directly through a contact already involved.

Kathryn suggested encouraging people in individual churches to volunteer in this way.

Action: Sam to provide details of how to volunteer so that we can go back to our individual churches with Kathryn's suggestion.

Francis suggested CPC giving some money towards existing refugee family bus fares to language training in Chippenham which represents a significant part of their support until they are able to obtain employment.

It was agreed to give £100.00 per family towards travel expenses – a one-off commitment of £200.00 for the time being.

Action: Sam to find out how this could be achieved formally.

11. Church information leaflets - Calne Bookshop (Sam King)

Sam proposed we produce a new pack containing A5 information leaflets from all churches in the town with a new up to date folder to hold them.

The Folder – could be headed "The Church in Calne". Churches in the CPC could have the CPC logo on their specific sheet if they wished.

Action: Kathryn to ask Steve Colby to design the folder and ask if he would take responsibility for getting the church leaflets together.

12. Financial Procedures – a proposal (Stan) – covered under matters arising above.

13. Call for articles or events for Wiltshire Autumn Newsletter (deadline Sunday 30 October)

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Action: Elizabeth to handle this (article about Guinness Record Nativity attempt).

14. Church action on poverty

Stan mentioned this for information, as Wiltshire Radio had called him to draw his attention to a new anti-poverty campaign they are launching on 16th October. See <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>

15. Any Other Business

One World Week 23-30 October

Elizabeth had circulated posters relating to this.

Arts Festival Evensong – Sun 16th Oct 6pm – prayer from different churches.

Bob drew members attention to this service ending the Arts Festival.

Lebanese Meal and Talk by Sam King on his recent visit there.

This Friday 14th Oct 6.45pm – all welcome!

Afternote: *by the time these minutes are issued this item will have passed.*

Vincent Curtis closed in prayer.
The meeting concluded at 9.35pm