

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BRIDPORT AND DISTRICT
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2024
Time – 7pm at Bridport United Church

1. **Welcome and opening prayer.** Sue Herman- Chairman
2. **Apologies for Absence.** Peter Clark, Louise Hartley, John Yarrien, Jane Wilson, Michele Craddock.
3. **Changes required to Minutes from 25th June.** No changes required. Minutes signed by Sue as correct.
4. **Feedback on Open Air Services at West Bay**
 - 14th July - Sea Sunday Service. Led by Philip Ringer. Well attended and successful. Wessex Military Band provided the music. Great thoughtful testimony from Cally Burch. £110 collection for the RNLI.
 - 28th July - Led by Peter Clark, music by Ruth Jenkins. Not well attended however information and posters were late.
 - 11th August - Songs of Praise. Led by Philip Ringer. Successful event at the end of Come and Sea weekend - activities for children lead by St Mary's and St John's.
 - Need to consider next summer's programme for West Bay open air services earlier and improve publicity.
5. **Feedback – Melplash Rest Tent- 22nd August.** Thank you to the 18 volunteers who help during the show day including Lucy from the Melplash Office, who generously gave the tickets for the volunteers. Show also provided marquee, chairs, tables, hay bales and electricity. Although the weather was not too good, plenty of people attended the show. although numbers taken on the day may not show accurate figures. Attendances known were 370 adults, 202 children and 60-70 babies were either feed or changed or both in the tent. Cakes were donated in abundance. Income from the refreshments provided amounted to £194.67. Expenses totalled £52.10 for tea, coffee, crafts etc. for children, Net profit made of £142.57 for Churches Together Funds. Unfortunately, because of the wind the Gazebo inside the tent for changing and feeding had to be moved within the tent as it was touching the roof of the marquee. Peter was thanked by the meeting for his hard work in making the Rest Tent as success.
6. **Feedback on Pray Bridport', 9th July, 13th August**

Really positive experience with a representative from every church. West Bay lovely to gather their on a summers evening the numbers taking part had increased. Next Pray for Bridport at United Church, 10th September at earlier time of 6pm due to Big Band rehearsal on a Tuesday night. Other faiths have been invited to include the Baptists, Unitarians and Quakers but as yet only Lizzy Harley from the Unitarian church has replied to an email.

October 8th St Mary's Bridport
November 12th Christian Fellowship
No venue as yet for December? RC church.
Father Keith's last mass on 16th September and father Colin's first Mass will be on 23rd September.
David Collins has offered the Fellowship's Colour Laser printer for the use of Pray Bridport posters. Many to the members commented on how good the posters for have been.
7. **Feedback on progress in improving communication.**

Since last meeting the communication email list has been updated and all events have had a notification via email. The website for churches together was edited by Di Sinclair who has updated a few items. Request for past photos of events to put on the website, members to send any suitable photos.

Would also be favourable to use the Bridport Banter and Face book, to ask Peter Clark if he would be willing to help with this and to connect with the website.

8. Feedback on progress on subgroup Youth Worker Project

Peter, Cally, Seb and Lorna have met. First initial step is that the confirmation candidates from St Mary's and Beacon Church are getting together over supper of Pizza's to get the views of the young people about how they would like to meet up with other young Christians and whether this could be within the school environment or after school. To bear in mind that the RC church has a number of servers and Sunday school children of various ages. Thought best to start small. To feedback next meeting. Reminder to the group that the Youth Worker Project is raising £330 a month which could be available and on starting a group may find more people willing to subscribe to the fund.

To communicate with other churches if a Youth Group meeting is starting.

Reminder will need Risk Assessments/ Safeguarding which could be under which ever Church hosts the group. Will become more complicated if other churches involved.

Through Jackie of Pathways to Care has a contact who could help with DBS checks.

Tony Lee from the Volunteers Centre

9. Mission Statement and Aim from Churches Together in England

It was asked of the meeting if we should add The Vision and Strap-line from Churches Together England website onto our own. We have the Statement of Belief. Majority decision thought that this would be a good idea. However, the list of churches involved was a little more problematic. Asked to look at the Evangelical Guidelines. It was thought by the meeting that at this stage it was better not to include the opening statement.

10. A Rocha . Discuss if members would like further info/talk

Janet Webster Eco Church lead C of E parish has contacted CT as willing to come and talk about the principles of Eco Church. The Methodist Circuit and Beacon Church have discussed this and are looking at completing and acting on the bronze survey. C of E Bridport have liaised and are working with Bee Friendly and Sustainable Bridport, they have also found that the young people within the church are open to join in the conversation. The meeting felt that a talk open and advertised to all the churches may be a worthwhile event. Heather to talk to Janet about this.

11. Pathways to Care Update. Were expecting an article in the Bridge advertising for more drivers but this did not happen. Jackie was asked by Deb to send some information, so this could be placed in pew sheets. Drivers can select what jobs they undertake. Bridget Bolwell (Councillor) is looking into starting a befriending scheme along with Pauline of the social subscribing team and Carol at Harmony Centre. Bridget has possible volunteers to take people to events.

NHS volunteer responders have been working for the past 5 years. There is a telephone system in place. They can visit people, get prescriptions and act as a social contact.

12. Forthcoming events.

- **Taize Service-** Date 1st December at 4pm. Venue as yet undecided. Ruth to book
- **Christmas Tree Lighting.** West Bay Green in association with West Bay Days. Sunday 1st December at 4pm
- **Nativity Play** 21st December. Inaugural planning meeting to be held on Tuesday 24th September, 11am at St Mary's. All welcome to attend.
- **Christmas Day Lunch** 25th December. Peter Wilson willing to organise this year but needs volunteers particularly for collection of food etc. Meeting suggested that Peter comes to the next meeting with a list of tasks etc so members can volunteer for a particular job.

- **Epiphany Service** Sunday 5th January. Christian Fellowship at 4pm. Churches to be invited to select and perform two carols. Ruth to liaise with David and Jackie about the music.
- **Quarterly Tea and Games Afternoon.** Previously CT organised a social tea monthly. but regular hosting became difficult. Meeting felt a quarterly event would be a good idea to be hosted by a different church each time. To commence on the third Sunday of the month, at 2:30pm? To be called Tea and Chat. May involve singing and or games. Jane to be asked to produce posters. First event at **BUC 20th October** at 2:30pm then **Christian Fellowship** to host **15th January.**

12. A.O.B.

- **Community Carols.** West Bay Green, 26th December at 12:30
- **Bridport Carnival** Request to enter a walking float at the next year. Theme? Early Nativity
- **Accounts**-Kathy Hinks although no longer the CT representative is the secondary signature, no one opposed her remaining as a signatory until future paper work is completed.
- **Vigil for Peace**, occurs at the Chapel in the Garden on the 1st Saturday of the month at 12 noon. Lizzy has asked if CT would be favourable in continuing these vigils on other Saturdays in the month. Lasts for 15 minutes. After discussion as to time and venue, it was decided the best place for number of people who would see and possibly take part was in front of BUC at the same time each Saturday rota to be set up as to which church is responsible to find volunteers to partake.
- **Alpha Courses** starts:
 - 11th September - contact Cally Burch
 - 2nd October - contact Seb Gawen
 - 6th January - contact David Collins
- **Eye Witness Talk**- Monday 9th September at 7pm. St Mary's Church

13. Date of Next Meeting. Please note change of date: **Thursday 31st October** 7pm at St Mary and St Catherine Catholic Church.