

Registered Charity no. 249726

**Minutes of Council Meeting held at St Michael's, Martlesham on  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Attendance: 40**

1. Christine welcomed everyone to the meeting including Andrew Caldecott, Catherine Kersey and Joyce Starling. She thanked Martlesham Branch, particularly Ann and Margaret, for the refreshments and thanks to Diana for setting out her MUE table, one again. Christine reported the good news that Brenda Edrich and Naomi Campbell were each making good recoveries. Stuart was congratulated that he was to be installed as a Canon in the Cathedral in November.

Rev Stuart Mitchell then led us in worship.

2. Apologies: Beryl Mee, Helen Pell, Joy Bolwell, Mary Snape, Pat Sheppard, Brenda Edrich, Anne Wright, Margaret Goldstone, Pam Ross and Jeanette Wallond.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were proposed by Janice Walkey and seconded by Linda Cadman as a true record. All were in favour and these were then signed as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **President's Report:** Christine reminded everyone of the 2017 Faith in Action theme and all that had been achieved. The 2018 theme would be in Mary Sumner's footsteps with the General Meeting being held in Swansea. A presentation was then given of events during the year which included the Suffolk Show, Garden Party and the General Meeting in Edinburgh. The New Constitution with new zones would be a better way to share responsibility although this would take some years to achieve. At present we are waiting for the 2016/17 Review which should be sent to all branches. From the Scottish Interfaith Group on Domestic Abuse there was a display of shoes each with a caption of how the person who was being abused felt. This project was used in prisons with the offenders to help them understand the effect of their actions, it was a very moving display. The keynote speaker was Canon Sarah Snyder on Peace and Reconciliation. Christine introduced a new initiative called MULO which means Mothers' Union Listens, Observes and Acts. This will help MU in Britain and Ireland to focus on working globally, nationally and to especially to inspire action in our own communities. We are encouraged to talk to non-members about MU. A bible verse was quoted as Matthew 19:26 "With God all things are possible".

Having our Council Meetings on a Saturday was discussed and a significant proportion of the members present preferred to return to a weekday so this will be looked into at next Trustee Meeting.

The MUE shop in London is to close as it cannot compete with other businesses in the area and is trading as a loss.

A debate followed on whether we should be in the Diocesan Tent at the Suffolk Show where there are various activities to engage with young adults and families. Trustees are writing to ask Bishop Martin if we can have a MU table in the tent. To have a stand of 10m x 10m on our own would cost £1,200 plus VAT and additional cost for each service needed of £150. A Marquee would also need to be supplied. It is possible we might be able to reduce the amount to £600 if we can prove we are a charity which benefits the agricultural community in Suffolk. A budget of £2,000 has been put aside by Trustees. Monica queried whether the money spent would be better used elsewhere i.e. where people need a roof over their heads etc. Val suggested that if we are at the Show we should not be tucked away but on the main avenue. The majority were in favour to see if we can get a space in the Diocesan Tent and also to look into having our own tent. Trustees and Council to take a final decision in the new year.

It was suggested that we go to more Wedding Fayres but Sandra said that Trinity Park is the most reasonable at £175 and people come from all areas. This year it was noted that 90% were getting married in Church and enquire as to what Mothers' Union do. This was a great success.

The majority were in favour to see if we can get a space in the Diocesan Tent and also to look into having our own tent.

#### **6. Treasurers Report:**

A detailed report of the accounts was given by Keith. There were amounts of £500 from a Branch for the Parenting Courses together with another £150 from a Branch to go to the Parenting Courses. Linda Cadman raised an amount of approximately £350 from her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations to which an amount of £95 from Gift Aid was added and this also went to the Parenting Courses. Keith praised Rachel for the work she had done.

Gift Aid received will go to the Summer of Hope Appeal.

**Clare Thomas gave a short talk on her visit to Rwanda and showed her photos of Byumba – Diocesan Link. Consolee, the Byumba DP had given us a beautifully crafted picture of two giraffes and made of banana leaves.**

#### **7. Unit Reports:**

- Anna - Requesting us to visit the Pop-up shop in Halesworth.
  - Sandra - Would like gift tokens (not food) for Christmas of £5 from Boots, Primark etc for Bury and Ipswich Womens Refuge. These would be for the older children. Toys needed for the younger ones. Sandra thanked Rachel for her work with the Parenting Course.
  - Chris - Had printed off an Advent Blessings sheet off the web. Instructions for knitting teddies on the web site. Parenting course for fathers in prison.
  - Diana - Copies of Families W/W to be received in November.
- Ann Berg thanked everyone for their donations of hats for the Seafarers.  
All other reports as were attached to the Agenda.

**Speaker: Andrew Caldecott gave a brief overview of the Diocesan Initiative “Who Cares”. He invited members to complete a “Who Cares” card saying what hurts us most. The responses are collated to inform and direct the response that our Diocese needs to make.**

**Midday prayers were led by Linda Ginn**

**8. Correspondence:** None

**9. Vacancies:**

1. Minute Secretary – Christine thanked Linda for her personal support and her unique contribution to the information and communications functions of MU here. We wished her well in her move to North Wales. A card and bouquet were presented. Members were asked to seek a replacement.
2. Faith & Policy Coordinator – No candidates to date
3. Sudbury Area Representative – No candidate to date
4. Monica is standing down from Pathways and would like someone to take this over.
5. We still require a new person to inspect our Accounts. Keith asked members for suggestions. He pointed out that the alternative would be for us to hire a commercial firm.

**10. 16 days of Activism:**

25<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Beryl will be decorating a tree at St Mary le Tower

Suggesting doing something in your own church

Linda Ginn showed a booklet from Campsea Ashe branch on the shoe theme.

Val is to do a shoe display in her church in Needham Market.

All to observe the global moment if possible.

Christine hoped that a Diocesan Vigil or similar could happen at the Cathedral. The Cathedral branch were exploring this idea.

**11. Future Dates:**

**2017**

18<sup>th</sup> November – Ipswich Deanery Coffee Morning at Martlesham 10 am

16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November – North Suffolk Area Pop up Shop at i-Chameleon, Halesworth

4<sup>th</sup> December – Ipswich Deanery Advent Reflection Day at St Mary at Stoke

**2018**

7<sup>th</sup> March – Council Meeting at Stowmarket Salvation Army Centre

5<sup>th</sup> April – Discovery Day

12<sup>th</sup> April – Lady Day Banner Service at Rushmere 11am

26<sup>th</sup> May – St Mary at Stoke Branch Coffee Morning 9.30am

5<sup>th</sup> July – AGM at Moreton Hall

18<sup>th</sup> October – Healing & Wholeness Service at St Peter & St Paul, Clare 2pm

**12. AOB:** None

**13. Date of Next Meeting:**

7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Stowmarket Salvation Army

**14.** Rev Stuart Mitchell closed with the Grace.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

Signed.....

Dated.....