

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WELLING**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021 AT 8.00 PM**  
**ON ZOOM**

Present at the meeting were:

Rev Adam Foot (Chair)	St John's
Kate Foot	St John's
Rev Gordon McBean	St John's
Jenny Cosser	St John's
Canon Edward Perera	St Stephen's
Gwen Chiosso (Secretary)	St. Stephen's
Les Brett (Treasurer)	Bishop Ridley
Karen Freeman	Bishop Ridley
Grace Woodley	Bishop Ridley
Sandy Kennedy (Vice chair)	Methodist
Betty Lillie	St Mary's
Mavis Bubear	St Mary's
Rev Peter Organ	St Michael's
Pastor Graham Cunningham	Wellspring
Brian Bennett	Wellspring
Melvyn French	Vine Christian Community

**1. Prayers and Welcome**

The meeting opened with prayer led by Gwen.

**2. News from the Churches in brief**

**Bishop Ridley:** had joined with St John's in its online services and had just closed to the public again. They were unable to hold Nativity or Carol Services, nor Carols on the Green, but held weekly Advent Reflections which were recorded and posted to the website. They held a Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve which was live-streamed and a Communion Service on Christmas Day. On the first Sunday of December, they usually have a Toy and Gift Parade Service with the gifts going to Bexley Women's Aid. This time they opened up the church for donations and had an amazing response from the community. Instead of the usual Christmas Outreach Lunch, the church distributed food hampers to those who would be alone at Christmas.

**Vine Community:** 14 had met in person then had moved to meeting on Zoom. They had also been having a quiz and Bible study online.

The Night Shelter had been given a grant to house men and women in B&B accommodation and had employed a case worker. They had been preparing takeaway meals, and there was a dining area with room for them to eat socially distanced.

**St Stephen's:** had got through Advent and Christmas with restrictions. There had been five Masses over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the midnight one being brought forward to 7.30pm. At present the church was still open for Mass on three evenings and had two on Sunday mornings.

**St Mary's:** Rev Neil had been isolating at Christmas; thanks were due to Rev Peter Organ for filling in. Don Bevan, well known in scouting, had died just before Christmas. The drama group had done a pantomime online which went well, lasting 38 minutes. Their WhatsApp group continued to be popular for those alone, and there was now a coffee morning on Zoom.

**Wellspring:** had opened the church building when it had been allowed but had now gone back to online services and prayer meetings. These were well attended, and they had people

joining in from different parts of the country. They had been to a care home in Advent and sung carols and were looking into distributing food to those in need. They had online coffee mornings on a Thursday for those alone.

**Methodists:** were still open for services. Their carol service had gone well, and they had ended up also singing outside. Rev Nana was still unwell, but they were managing without him.

**St Michael's:** had been able to have most of their usual Christmas services apart from the children's one, including a nice carol service. They had now shut down and had gone back to livestreaming again.

**St John's:** had a contemporary carol service (the busiest) and two traditional ones. On Christmas morning they had gone outside to sing, though it had been too cold. At the bishop's suggestion, they had closed the building on 27 December for a break and had now decided to continue online. House groups, prayer groups and coffee mornings continued online, as did another Alpha course which was able to include people from far away.

**TBB:** the Clocktower Project was being piloted after Easter aimed at young people, without a good home to go back to, who were at risk of being groomed into gangs. The youth workers would be working with the police, churches and the secondary team at CRIBS.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: Rev Mark Tariq, Rev Carol Bates, Andrew Lewis, Rev Christina Cunningham, Deacon Colin Barnard.

**4. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

These were approved by the chair. Gwen reported that Colin still had to do a little more to the website, which initially would be for representatives only. He would shortly be sending round an email to everyone.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Les reported that nothing had changed since last time. Money would be needed if it was decided to do the Christmas leaflets again.

**6. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18-25 January**

St John's was holding a Prayer Chain over two days during the week on Friday and Saturday. This could be offered to the other churches to join in. There would be two hour-long Zoom sessions, and the other hours could be booked by individuals. Any other church having an online prayer event that week to let Kate/Gwen know so it could be sent round.

**7. Monthly recorded homily**

Adam had come up with the idea that ministers could take it in turns to record a gospel message which could be put round to the other churches. Karen offered to set up a Facebook page where these could be put up. Adam would start this off and then find someone to follow him.

**8. Lent activities**

Sandy said that it looked as if only online activities would be possible after all. She requested that churches doing things online, which could be shared, to let her know so that they could be advertised. If the website was ready by then it would be a good place to put up the details.

**9. Good Friday Walk of Witness**

It was agreed that the walk wouldn't go ahead this year. Adam suggested that perhaps people could gather outside their churches and pray together, if allowed.

**10. Any Other Business**

(a) Torch Trust (Christian Sight Loss Charity) was offering free online sessions to churches interested in becoming sight friendly ones.

(b) CAP had made a series of Kickstart videos to help those struggling with different problems. Graham, Kate and Bola (Christ Apostolic) had met to discuss how they could use the online, free sessions. Churches interested in joining in to let Graham or Kate know. Kate to check there weren't any other churches already doing the same thing.

(c) A suggestion to churches to remember to pray for ambulance workers, cleaners, porters etc. as well as doctors and nurses in these difficult times.

The meeting closed with prayer.

**CTiW Meetings for 2021**

**Prayers led by:**

Monday 11 January

St Stephen's

Tuesday 16 March

St Mary's

Sunday 30 May AGM hosted by

Bishop Ridley

Wednesday 22 September

Salvation Army

Thursday 4 November

FCI