

Minutes of CTiS & D Open Forum held at St John's Methodist Church at 7.30 pm on Thursday 12th March 2009

Apologies for absence were received from: Rev Nigel Ford and Val Ford, Lynda Lunn and Rev Sam White. Sam's email expressed appreciation for all the work being done by CTiS&D.

The meeting was attended by 61 people from 16 different organisations.

1. Welcome, Reading and Prayer. The welcome was given by Deacon Hilary Smith who also led the opening worship.

The Forum was told that Rev'd Peter Brett wished to bring Sudbury Catholic church back into CTiS&D. This announcement was welcomed with acclaim.

2. Minutes of the previous Forum and matters arising. The minutes of the previous Forum were approved and signed as a true record. There was nothing further to report on the Town Pastors Scheme at the moment. Anyone wishing to know more or to offer help: contact Frank Marsden 01787 312002 (fmarsdenuk@yahoo.co.uk). There would be a meeting about the website in the near future.

3. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report had been circulated with the agenda and there were no questions arising from the report. The payments listed in the report were approved by Forum. In addition, Forum were asked to agree that £100 should be taken from the prayer breakfast fund and given to Future Vision for their holiday week in April. This was approved.

4. Updates

a) Marriage Focus Group. Rev Jamie Allen reminded Forum that the current divorce rate was 45%. He said that God had laid on their hearts a prayer burden in this connection. Two drop-in sessions had been arranged from 10 – 2 pm on Saturday 28th March and Saturday 25th April at 72, North Street. The session would be advertised by postcard to everyone in the Sudbury and District area. Those at Forum were invited to take away postcards for delivery. Posters were also available. About 8 people were being trained to give guidance. The Group would also be attending wedding fayres. More delegates from any church would be welcome to join the Group.

b) WATCH! A report by the Rev Richard Titford had been circulated before the meeting and is appended. Additional points were that there could be some delay in reaching a decision as Carole Taylor- Brown, PCT Chief Exec., was ill; the PCT were claiming credit for the new X-ray machine, but Forum were reminded that it was the people of Sudbury who had demanded the machine. There would be a meeting at the Town Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18th March at which there would be an update.

c) LENT Malcolm Offord reported that over 80 people had turned up for the first session at St Peters. The second session had been at house-groups and 3 new groups had been set up in addition to existing groups and all were well attended. The next session would be at Living Waters, the fourth would be house groups and the final session would be at St Peters. It was going well so far – apart from problems with sound at St Peters. It was noted EnGp have agreed, subject to consultation with Friends of St Peters, to try and enhance the sound system.

d) Good Friday/Easter Rev Jamie Allen said the cross would leave St Andrews at 11.30 am on Good Friday to be taken to Market Hill by 12 noon. Anyone who wished to walk with the cross would be welcome. At noon there would be music etc at Market Hill and hot cross buns would be served. Kettle and Fish would be open. Anyone wishing to help with activities on Market Hill should speak to Rev Jamie Allen.

e) Christian Aid Forum was reminded that some roads in the Sudbury area still do not have collectors. Malcolm Snow would circulate a list of these roads asking for volunteer collectors.

5. Written Reports. These had been circulated before the meeting. Those at Forum were asked to ensure these were put on church notice boards. There were no questions on the reports. People were asked to let any member of EnGp know if they had any issues with the work that was being done by CTiS&D, preferably at a personal meeting or by phone.

6. Praise on Market Hill July 12th 2-6 pm Peter Halden reported that all the basics were in place. The theme would probably be "Amazing Grace". Churches would receive a letter shortly asking for help with activities to take place in the afternoon. The need for a large screen was noted. Tim Ayrton offered his. A 4000 Lm projector is needed. It was hoped that both screen and projector would be available for use elsewhere eg St Peters. Questions were asked about participants to be invited. Mr Halden said a final decision had not yet been made. The Chair said that any suggestions would be welcome. Peter Sebbage reminded Forum that following Praise on Market Hill, churches needed to be prepared to welcome newcomers. The maximum budget for POMH was £1400. It was agreed a letter would go to churches inviting contributions. Funding would also be available from Kettle and Fish funds. Forum approved this budget.

7. Use of gift from Christmas Tree Festival Various suggestion for the use of the £2000 were made including the Town Pastors scheme, Marriage Focus Group, the projector, the audio system at St Peters, St Nicholas' Hospice, and Edens. After considerable discussion it was agreed [9 votes for and 2 against] that £500 should be given to Marriage Focus Group, £500 (if needed) to St Peters to enhance the audio system, £750 towards a new projector and £250 to St Nicholas' Hospice for its 25th year appeal.

8. CTiS&D Constitution. The Constitution could not be adopted until 75% of the churches had agreed it. One more acceptance was necessary. Five replies were outstanding. Forum agreed that the Constitution could be adopted as soon as one more acceptance in writing was received.

9. Easter Story 2010. Eleanor Ridge's report had been circulated before the meeting. Church reps were asked to go back to churches and discuss whether the Easter Story should be performed in 2010. Eleanor emphasised that the project would start with prayer, continue with prayer and finish with prayer. A committee could be set up in Sept 2009, and meet monthly. Rehearsals and sound recording could start in January. New ministers would need to read the script. There would be involvement with sound, costumes, publicity, singing, dancing, stewarding. A decision based on churches' responses could be made at the next Forum in June. In 2006, the cost was about £1300. Consideration would need to be given to how this event could be funded.

10. The Church in the Community Rev Jamie Allen spoke to the Forum. A summary of his talk is appended and is on the CTiS website.

11. Any Other Business.

a) European Union Elections - Canon John Nurser suggested CTiS&D could invite candidates to explain their views (as was done at the General Election). It was agreed to look into this suggestion and see if it is practical.

b) Money courses - free 3 week courses are starting again on April 22nd at 72 North St. Applications or further enquiries, should be directed to 01787 372346.

c) Leaflets – those present were asked to take CTiS leaflets and Marriage Focus Group postcards to deliver. Bundles were also available for churches to have to hand out.

d) Cornard Christian Fellowship invited anyone who was interested to a missionary talk about Borneo on 18th May.

12. Date of next Forum Wednesday 17th June 2009 at 7.30 pm

13. Closing Prayer – was led by Malcolm Offord.

CHURCHES TOGETHER in Sudbury & District – Finances as at 4th March 2009

The balance in hand of	£7057.72	(£5908.97 on Dep't) is accounted for as follows
General Funds	2861.55	inc.£2000 CTree gift (£4504.24 on general Deposit)
Future Vision(n:vi)	255.20	
Kettle & Fish	2329.55	
Easter	99.35	
Way Inn	1404.73	£1404.73 on 30day notice Deposit
Prayer Breakfasts	107.34	in Current A/c

Affiliation donations for the year Sept 08 to Aug 09 have been received from: Bures Baptist, Sudbury Baptist, Christ Church URC, Cornard Christian F, St Gregorys, Suffolk Road, St Johns Methodist, Gt Cornard Parish, Lavenham Parish, Quakers, L Melford Parish, All Saints & Sudbury Salvation Army.

If your Church/Fellowship is not in the list please remind the Treasurer of your Church/Fellowship that the 2008/09 affiliation donation is now due.

Current suggested donations are: small organisations £60 (£23 for general funds & £37 for n:vision rent) and £85 for larger (£33 g.f. & £52 n:vision) and these are considered adequate for this new year.

General Fund. The £2000 from the Christmas Tree Festival is at present in the General Fund in the Instant Access Deposit Account. £26 was given at the Forum for Marion Bright's farewell and we gave her a £50 M&S Gift Card. The £20 subscription has been paid to the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation.

Kettle & Fish at St Peters. The net refreshment etc sales income for December to February averaged £162.26 per opening. £46.93 has been paid to Sudbury Office Supplies, £37.99 for a 2nd hand Soup Kettle, £62.00 for a length of table cloth material, £74.75 for an 'A' Board, £51.15 for filter coffee, £22.90 to St Johns Traidcraft for sugar & tea, £110.10 for Christian literature, £27.20 for cheese, butter & cordial, £450 to Friends of St Peters for December, January & February and £82 for Christmas Day publicity.

£200 has been given to the Damaris Trust in relation to the Lent course material – Sudbury Baptist has produced all the booklets.

£415 has been paid for 15000 CTiS&D/K&F leaflets.

Future Vision. £135.00 paid to Woodhall Primary School for 10 Monday evenings rent in the current term for n:vision@springlands. The United Service offering of £250.30 has been paid to Future Vision for 'Open the Book', for which they thank us.

Easter. The balance in hand of £99.35 will be held for a future event.

Way Inn. A donation of £100 was made to the Refugee Council for the Hugo de Waal Fund – this gives support to asylum seekers and refugees in the Ipswich area. All funds are on deposit.

United Services offerings have been for the financial support of: October – Edens Project, January – Future Vision (n:vision@springlands), May – Christian Aid & July – Praise in the Park costs.

Please approve the above payments

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REPORTS TO THE FORUM, MARCH 2009

SUDBURY ON SHOW

Thursday 12th February - Sudbury Upper School was very well organised by Sports Partnership and the School. There were approx 25 stands and the whole school came through the Sports Hall year by year. The main attractions were sports and music - wall golf, exercise video and mats but the organising Sports Partnership stopped their music to allow the students to visit the static exhibits. Eden's had a quieter profile this time but picked up new members the following night. The Lib Dems ran out of questionnaires proving the value of inter-active communication. It was difficult to break into the herd instinct of the students but we gave away many "Why Jesus" etc and made some contact. Please pray the Holy Spirit will be present when these are read or even discarded. Great Cornard Upper School had just finished major alterations and could not host Sudbury on Show this year.

Saturday 14th February at the Town Hall and St Peter's. This was very well supported. K&F was responsible for refreshments in St Peter's and were extremely busy. Within both venues the exhibits were more colourful and imaginative than previously. The visitors were all ages - families and older folk and it was good to see the "buzz" between the exhibitors and them and the public.

Having "birthed" this event personally and knowing all the headaches involved, I was delighted to see it running so smoothly and effectively for the fourth time. To me voluntary work is the "heart" of Sudbury - it is a real joy to see so many concerned for others in these generally selfish days. It was well done!

Eleanor Ridge

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Since my last meeting in Ipswich in December little has moved forward worth comment. It seems that the Suffolk CC are in the process of changing local area boundaries. I will be attending a local L.S.P. forum on 10th March at Lavenham.

Peter Sebbage

KETTLE AND FISH

Since the beginning of the year *Kettle & Fish* has had an unbroken run on a Thursday. This has meant that our 'customers' can rely upon us being open – and welcoming! Numbers of visitors to *Kettle & Fish* have increased encouragingly, so much so that the number of tables we use each week has also had to increase. At times we seem to approach saturation point, with queues at the counter and folk waiting for a space to become available! Life in the kitchen inevitably becomes hectic at such moments, but thanks to reorganisation of the personnel, with helpers being assigned 'stations' to work from and being willing to be flexible, service is normally efficient and good-humoured. Reorganisation has also happened on the *Fish* side of the project. Prayer requests continue to be left, candles to be lit, and there is much browsing of the tables, and a goodly number of Christian books are being bought. Decisions will soon be made concerning how to incorporate a specifically healing dimension into our ministry. We look forward to the tourist season, when we shall have more visitors from further afield. We have also been called upon to provide refreshments during the Christmas Tree Festival, for the switching on of the town's Christmas lights and most recently for Sudbury on Show. We are very pleased to be recognised in this way by the town authorities – all this gives us the opportunity to explain who we are and our Christian stance to a clientele who would not normally come into contact with us. As usual, thanks to all the

volunteers who make *Kettle & Fish* possible – especially to Judith and Eleanor who do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes week by week.

Malcolm Offord

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

They continue to flourish with an average of 30 people meeting weekly one in heart and mind!!

EDENS YOUTH PROJECT

Skills for Life kicked off with a successful Battle of the Bands event towards the end of last year, raising over £450. Organised by David Cornes it has helped fund the equipment for the recording studio and has helped develop the links with local school music departments. The Skills for Life workshops themselves have now started with Nick Hunt's Guitar tuition proving a popular choice and the Self Esteem and Fitness workshops also being enjoyed by a number of young people, we look forward to other workshops starting soon.

Last term's Scoffs [outreach supper] was also a success with new trustee Nigel Ford giving a short talk looking at what we expect our lives to be which hopefully raised questions amongst the young people who came. A number of the young people who attend Sanctifi [on Sunday evenings] were also involved in serving a meal cooked by Dan Thomas. Hopefully they enjoyed the opportunity to live out their faith before their peers and show them the joy that can come from service.

Diversifying the range of access to the Arts provided by Eden's, Ziggy has now started her Art sessions with increasing interest from young people. We look forward to seeing this grow over the coming months.

Stuart Ayling

EASTER STORY 2010

In both 2002 and 2006 CTiS&D produced and presented "Easter Story" around Sudbury. Full costume well recorded dialogue, closely following Matthew's account. Dramatised sequence of events:-

- The Last Supper - Outside Catholic Church
- The Garden of Gethsemane - The Croft nearer North St
- Trial by Priests - Top of North St
- Trial by Pilate and People - Outside Town Hall
- Way of the Cross - Market Hill, Gainsborough St, Gregory St to The Croft by Bishop's statue
- Crucifixion & Resurrection
- Modern day - TV panel - Facing age-old Questions

Approx 100 people were involved, acting, dancing, singing, stage managing, stewarding etc. The blessings received were numerous - especially when God darkened the sky at the crucifixion in 2002.

Should we present it again in 2010?

Eleanor Ridge

Discerning how God is calling us to be Salt and Light to our community...

- Our Gospel is of justice and peace in a troubled nation; in the face of consumerism we stand for not what we have but how we love one-another. In the face of no value on commitment and permanence we stand for marriage and strong family values. Where there is much isolation, we stand for hospitality and welcome of strangers and immigrants. We are concerned not with material richness, but how we care for the weakest among us.
- Has God placed on your heart a burden of prayer for your community? We shared some of these, which included being church to Springlands and valuing that community; providing a safe space for youth in Glemsford (which has been brought to fruition) and providing support for families in need of parenting help.
- Matthew 5:13-16 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?... You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden... Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Not a lot of salt is required to make a remarkable difference to a meal... and just the right amount must be added. It also has remarkable preservative characteristics. So what does being that salt mean in terms of discipleship and mission – it means not staying in the salt pot, even it's a very beautiful one, but of course mingling as part of the recipe. Salt of the earth, not of the church.
- Radically (!) it's worth reflecting on the fact that in some ways our church buildings are a blessing to us – because they give us a physical presence in a community or a parish and are a springboard to us taking action in that community. They are anchors of hope. They are also a physical expression of ourselves in that place. So what do they say about us? Do they appear open or closed? Are they used during the week regularly for prayer? How easy is it to cross the threshold?
- 'You really have to go down to the ground to find the very poorest who have no voice. Local churches work with everyone. They know the poorest people in the village, because they live there.' Pastor Cuthbert Gondwe (Malawi) – 'They used to tell us that the Christians are compassionate, yet we are dubious; but today we believe it. In all of our history, no one has ever given us food aid. This time we have been taken notice of. The Christians are welcome among us.' Recipient of food aid, Niger.... sounds good – but what about Sudbury?! How about **our** immediate communities – are we focused on loving them in this way?
- Remembering Jesus standing up in the temple and reading from the Isaiah scroll, through grace we are also called to :
 - * bring "good news to the poor" (the redundant?)
 - * bring "liberty to captives" – (by addiction or violence or poor health?)
 - * bring "new sight to the blind" (think of some aspects of the internet)
 - * "set the downtrodden free" (offering hope where there is little)...and must answer to how we are serving "the least of these" if we are followers of Jesus. We are called in a special way to serve the poor and vulnerable in our communities – are we getting stuck in?

- SO given that our churches are called to be the starting points for "salt" and "light" to be mingled into the recipe, we briefly discussed the following questions as pointers in this :
 - What do our next-door neighbours in the street of our building think of us ?
 - Have we asked them ? What three good points / not-so-good points might they respond with?
 - What are we doing for our immediate community?
 - How do we look:
 - Open?
 - Shut? (Is daily prayer visibly going on?)
 - Safe to cross the threshold?
 - What is our **prayer burden**? And are there ways that we can gather others in our church with a similar prayer burden, and work together in bringing a project into being?

- We discussed how believing can often start with belonging. But how can we encourage people to belong... it is perhaps obliquely through this kind of simply saltiness, because building relationships which are founded on self-giving love without judgment (leaving this aspect entirely to the Holy Spirit) can be the basis of trust being formed. That trust can then enable people to cross the thresholds of our churches and feel safe to explore faith and what it is to worship.

Jamie Allen

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### **SUDBURY WATCH!** Report from Richard Titford

1 The unanimous rejection by Babergh Strategy Committee of a possible development of part of the Belle Vue site for Hardwicke House GP and PCT services was no surprise to us but undoubtedly a welcome decision locally.

2 Elections have been held for governors of the West Suffolk Hospital should it be granted NHS Foundation status. Local Sudbury and Babergh people were elected including Peter Clifford, chairman of Sudbury WATCH!. It is still not clear whether the hospital will be granted foundation status.

3 We expect some form of resolution probably by the end of the summer to this long drawn out battle over the future of hospital health services for Sudbury. When we are clear about the PCT's intentions via a proper business plan then we shall arrange a public meeting.