

**Minutes of the CTiS&D Open Forum held at the Quaker Meeting House,  
at 7-30pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**

Apologies for absence from Peter Halden, Sue Kistruck, Sheelagh Ruse, Lynda Sebbage, Deacon Hilary Smith, Revs. Richard Titford, Jamie Allen & Nigel Ford; Margaret Tracey, and David Ford

1. Opening Prayer led by Betty Scrivener Clerk to the Quakers. Betty read from the Quaker handbook of life.

2. (a) The minutes of the Open Forum 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009 were accepted as a true record.

(b) Matters arising from the minutes: (i) CTiS&D Constitution:  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Churches agreed the constitution, which was signed and is available on the Web site.

Jane Carter (Quakers) asked for confirmation by letter that the Quakers are full members of CTiS&D. Roger Pullan (chair) replied that we have always considered them to be full members. This was supported unanimously. Agreed a letter of confirmation be sent.

3. Treasurer's report dated 8<sup>th</sup> June. Acceptance agreed.

4. Updates/Reviews

a. **Lent Course** –(on Prayer). Rev Greg Webb said how lovely it was to have so many people. When asked to split into small groups they turned out to be quite large but this was a good thing. Jane Kohler appreciated her group and felt it worked very well, a wonderful experience. There was a thought that it lacked continuity because of the home groups meeting alternate weeks. Father Peter Brett did not use groups. The group held at the home of Joyce Phelps studied the Lent course because those people had young children and could not attend St. Peters.

b. **Good Friday 2009 Review**. It was felt to be one of the best though some people at the back could not hear. For those people using the microphones better instruction is needed.

c. **Town Pastors**. They finish their training in 2 weeks and hope to be on the streets of Sudbury in July. Peter Avery spoke about their work asking us what are TP's? and read a witty little poem by way of explanation. There is funding to buy the uniforms. TP's are already at work in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds and Stowmarket. Some have reported a 75% reduction in crime / night time disturbance. The police are happy and the people in training are very eager to begin work. Those involved are Kevin Jones, Frank Marsden, Rev. Brian Stenner and others from Baptists, Gt. Waldingfield, Suffolk Rd, All Saints, and Living Waters churches. They hope to apply for charity status in due course. The Prayer Team would be based in the Salvation Army Hall at night with a minimum of 1 person who would be kept in touch with those on the street, so that they were better able to pray into the situations as they arose. Secondly people who agree to pray at home, will be able to pray at a specific time for an hour and could ring the base to keep in touch with prayer needs. Peter Avery sought the backing of the Forum. Proposed by the Rev. Simon Gill and seconded by Judith Offord. Accepted unanimously.

d. **Live on Market Hill**. Martin Sparks stressed the need to invite non-Christian friends along. There is a pack for each church to take away and publicise the event. Dave Bilbrough (Christian composer and singer) has agreed to come along. "Christian Bikers" will also be there. Jane Kohler had produced a poster/info sheet. Peter Sebbage also urged us to encourage non-Christians to come along.

e. **2010 Easter Story.** Eleanor Ridge asked: Do we think it is God's will to put on another production? We would need approximately 100 people to be involved, with Eleanor producing the script. A production team, a prayer team, stewards, choir, flag wavers, dancers, crowd etc. Eleanor reported that Bury St Edmunds were more graphic in their production, eg red on Jesus robe to represent his blood. Do we need to change the venue? It would not be possible to have the crucifixion outside St. Peters or the Town Hall because of the market. A committee of committed people is needed; one from each church would be good. There is a vast amount of work. How important is it for our witness to the town? Peter Avery (Living Waters) felt it was important to put this on in the town. Seven churches have said yes so far. Eleanor has sign-up sheets for each church. The committee would need to begin planning in September with monthly meetings thereafter. Rehearsals to begin in January.

Malcolm Offord proposed 'We support Easter Story 2010', which was accepted by an overwhelming majority vote.

f. **Marriage Focus Group** (see written report): Roger urged Churches to support this group.

## 5. **Written Reports** (as circulated) & comments/feedback.

a) **The Healing Ministry** begins at the K&F in 2 weeks time. Prayer for healing of body, mind & spirit is offered every week at K&F.

b) **Edens-** Open afternoon and Graduation of My year out students on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

c) **Men in Christ** Sudbury and District. Martin Sparks sought formal endorsement of this group, which is affiliated to Christian Vision for Men. Their Mission Statement is to build up men to speak about the Kingdom. Pray for it to be self funding. May need short term funding but no specific figure has been asked for. They hope to have a representative in each Church who is willing to inform. Please pray for the work. Martin says they have had great encouragement from the ladies. The next meeting is at 7-45pm on Thursday at 72 North Street Sudbury. They also meet for breakfast on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month for a full English Breakfast at Wally's Café, Acton. The Enabling Group had discussed the proposal prior to this meeting and felt it was something CTiS&D could endorse. Penny Thewlis proposed this: seconded by Rev Greg Webb. Carried with 2 abstentions. David Rout proposed a £100 donation to Christian Vision for Men. Carried with 1 abstention.

d) **"Triumph & Tragedy in Tyre"**: a meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. A headmaster will speak about his school, and Jill Pullan asked for our support.

e) **Chilton Woods-** Jane Kohler reported that there had been no meetings or movement at present. At the elections people had lost seats which means change and waiting. The economic downturn has had an effect. Springlands Christian fellowship, which meets at Woodhall School, is a Christian presence there. Chris Rowe felt that Springlands was left out and had lost facilities in the past. She also asked us to pray for Peter Wright who has a serious illness.

f) **Revive:** a Report was read. It continues to meet at Edens and we send our good wishes to Rob Greenow and his fiancé Abigail who have recently got engaged.

g) **Sudbury WATCH!** Health Services Support Social Enterprise Co. is registered and ready to become involved with the Health Service and Oasis. Please keep praying and encourage the committee. Rev. Greg Web is a director of the Company, which can be a

minefield at times. We will get a health facility of some sort at some point. But who knows when?

## **6. Relaunch of the CTiS&D website**

This has been delayed due to Matt George's wife's illness. We still need a News Editor. The site would allow people to put views and comments and allow discussion. Rev. Greg Webb's article on Fresh Expressions of Church, with personal faith stories, will feature. Malcolm apologised for the late updating of the present site. The new re-launch will be notified.

## **7. Future events:**

- (i) AGM & Open Forum: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Roger Pullan will retire as Chairman. He has worked very hard with the Lord's guidance. Malcolm Offord suggested some re structuring taking some of the burden off the Chairman by decentralisation and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair plus other changes. Please pray and look carefully for a replacement. There is a nomination form with the agenda and the deadline for nominations is 13<sup>th</sup> September. This is a very important position and lots of growth needs to be managed. Anyone interested in this position who would like to shadow Roger for a time should speak to him or one of the committee. A new procedure manual is being prepared giving also some of the history of Churches Together.

Rather than have an Agape meal before the AGM it was suggested we have one during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

- (ii) Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October United Service (led by Eden's) at St Gregory's.
- (iii) Malcolm Offord suggested that we do not have a CTiS&D Lent Course in 2010 because of the Easter Story production. Rev. Greg Webb felt there would be too much pressure and we could have one the following year. There would need to be good planning and this was supported by Rev Simon Gill. There were no contrary views.
- (iv) Eden's are celebrating '10 years' and invite everyone to their open day on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**8. AOB.** (i) Local Strategic Partnerships- Peter Sebbage commended this organisation and invited more people to become involved. There are grants available for community projects.

(ii) 'Light up a Life' - takes place on 29<sup>th</sup> November, not 6<sup>th</sup> December as in the agenda.

(iii) Avocet Quiz night 27<sup>th</sup> June, tickets £4. Please see Graham Gilbert.

(iv) We were asked to pray for the family of Alan Lock who lost his life in the River Stour, and for Matt George's wife Jan, who is ill.

(iv) Kevin Jones invited more people to volunteer as Town Pastors.

(v) We were invited to the Fellowship Football Final on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**9. Closing Prayers** for several people in special need.

CHURCHES TOGETHER in Sudbury & District – Finances as at 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
Covering 3 months : for the Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

The balance in hand of	£6788.98	(£4412.64 on Dep't) is accounted for as follows
General Funds	1344.59	inc.£500 of CTree gift (£3006.72 on general Deposit)
Future Vision(n:vi)	186.70	
Kettle & Fish	3653.24	
Easter	99.35	
Way Inn	1405.92	£1405.92 on 30day notice Deposit
Prayer Breakfasts	99.18	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, Springlands Christian F & Catholic Church.

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).

General Fund. A donation of £20 was received for Praise on Market Hill, as well as £100 from St Gregorys. £100 was paid to the Friends of St Peters for 2 Lent meetings & £4.80 for postage. The Projector cost £814.14 of which £7.50 came from the Christmas Tree gift - £500 is still in hand for improvements to the St Peters sound system. The United Service offering amounted to £293.38 and this has been paid on to Christian Aid.

Kettle & Fish at St Peters. The net refreshment etc sales income for the period was £1944.70 (10 openings), £10 was given by RNLI for use of a collection table and there was an anonymous gift of £444.70. £78.50 was paid for Easter printed material, £17.15 for Hot Cross Buns on Good Friday, £152.23 for catering supplies, £163.67 to Primo Coffee, £25.80 for Traidcraft tea & coffee, £165.80 to St Andrews Bookshop for books sold, £47.98 for a high chair & baby change mat, £550 to Friends of St Peters, £50 to Living Waters for a Lent meeting & £12.59 for a clear plastic for the Vision of Sudbury picture frame. To clarify the profit of K&F, when the above expenses are taken away from the above net income the real average profit is £68.07 per week.

Future Vision. £121.50 was paid to Woodhall School for 9 evenings in the current term - balance held for next school year.

Easter. The balance in hand of £99.35 will be held for a future event. A promise of £100 for Easter Story 2010 has been received.

Way Inn. 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 on Market Hill costs (if one is taken up).

The previous report also dated 8<sup>th</sup> June only covered 1 month and was really only for the Enabling Group!

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## REPORTS TO THE FORUM, JUNE 2009

### REPORT ON THE HEALING MINISTRY

The initial training has now been undertaken and those members of the ministry team are ready and prepared to provide prayer for healing for those people who come into Kettle & Fish and who are seeking this support. We are keen to see this provided in a calm and relaxed way and therefore prayer for healing may be offered either where the person is seated or away in a quiet 'Sacred Space' that we are providing in St Peter's – whatever best suits the need at the time.

We pray this ministry will extend to all those coming to Kettle & Fish whether church members or not and we wait on the Lord to see where He directs us in the future in this vital mission of outreach and pastoral care.

*Lynda Sebbage*

### EDEN'S PROJECT

Please continue to uphold Eden's Project in your prayers as Neil Holmes (Operations Manager) has been on sick leave since Christmas with kidney problems and eyesight loss due to his diabetes. Please pray for Neil to have a miracles recovery. Please also pray for Stuart Ayling (Project Manager) as he juggles the whole workload of the Project. Eden's is looking forward to Bill Yates' visit to the UK in June and hope he will be encouraged with the ongoing mission of Eden's. The MY-Yearout students will be finishing their training at Eden's in July and are all seeking God's will for their lives. Please also pray for our youth evangelistic dinner night - Scoffs - on the 18th July where Julia Wickenden will be sharing her testimony through her time in Uganda. The next day during the afternoon of Sunday 19th July you are all invited to a joint event at Eden's to mark the MY-Yearout graduation, our Eden's4Adults open day and to celebrate Eden's 10th anniversary!

### MEN in CHRIST – SUDBURY & DISTRICT

*1 Thessalonians 5 v 11 " So encourage each other to build each other up, just as you are doing already."*

About 4 months ago a couple of us attended a "Christian Voice For Men" conference run by C.V.M. (Christian Voice for Men) which became the catalyst for us to organise a men's fellowship later to be called Men in Christ in Sudbury and District (MiCs). We invited men from all our local churches to monthly fellowship, meeting at No 72 North Street in the upper room!!!

So far about 20 men have come along each evening representing most of our Churches. Our ministry is to build up the men in our area so that we can all undertake the Great Commission with zeal and confidence in our Lord thus bringing about a new male dynamic in reaching out to non- Christian men and those unsure of their faith.

We also invite guys to experience the delights of God's provision at breakfast at Walley's in Acton each Wednesday morning at 8.00am. I can smell the bacon from here!! This presents itself as another way to bring men, and occasionally young lads for a time of fellowship with about 10-12 guys coming together each week

Men, please encourage us by joining us ~ we are heading into an exciting Spirit- filled journey! Church leaders come along too. We have a lot to learn together and for which to praise God.

NB from CTiS&D: It will be proposed at the Forum that CTiS&D agrees to formally endorse MiCS and to support its work as it is able.

*Martin Sparks*

## **KETTLE AND FISH**

Recently at *Kettle & Fish*, we have been very inspired by a poem by Samuel Moor Shoemaker. I quote a few lines of it -

I stand by the door.  
I neither go too far in, nor stay too far out.  
The door is the most important door in the world –  
It is the door through which folk walk when they find God.  
There's no use my going way inside and staying there,  
When so many are still outside, and they, as much as I,  
Crave to know where the door is.  
The most tremendous thing in the world  
Is for people to find the door – the door to God.

The role, the ministry of *Kettle & Fish* is to attempt to represent that door, to show the way to God, in as real a manner as we can to our visitors. We achieve this through our demeanour, through what we say, through the way we demonstrate our faith. We have sensed a much deeper spiritual atmosphere in St Peter's Thursday by Thursday. There is closer fellowship among the volunteers, there is a greater desire to serve Jesus in all aspects of our ministry, there is a deeper awareness of our responsibility as Christians to inform our visitors of what our faith means to us. One sad note, however – Val Ford has felt that she should stand down as deputy manager, as she has been asked to take up other responsibilities elsewhere (so not so sad really!). We do thank her for what she has contributed to the project and are glad that she will continue as a volunteer – as we are for all the volunteers, both old and new.

*Malcolm Offord*

## **PUBLIC MEETING: Town Hall Wednesday 8th July 7.30pm.**

Speaker: Nigel White, Headmaster of Tyre Evangelical School, South Lebanon.

Title: **Triumph & Tragedy in Tyre.**

Aim: to give insight into life in one of the Middle East hotspots, with emphasis on the challenge of Christian witness in an unstable political & religious situation. Hopefully will attract a mixed church & non-church audience.

Sponsored by Suffolk Rd Church. EnGp have agreed to CTiS&D endorsement

## **THE MARRIAGE FOCUS GROUP**

The Marriage Focus Group has continued to visit wedding fairs; has offered support drop-in days for couples struggling in their relationships; has produced a revised and smashing new version of The Local Marriage Guide, and has begun the training of new volunteers to support couples with the Prepare-Enrich scheme.

We continue to sense God's call to support, uphold and promote marriage - and would appreciate the prayers and input of as many churches as can offer support in prayer, personal and funds. Thank YOU !

Our next (brief) meeting is to be held on Monday 29th June, 7.30pm at No 72 North Street. Please do come and support this vital work of mission.

*Jamie Allen, on behalf of The Marriage Focus Group.*

### **TOWN PASTORS: Report to the CTiS&D Forum 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

Peter Avery and his colleagues have progressed this considerably in the past few weeks. In particular:

- the open meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May was addressed by Jo Copsey (who runs Bury TP's) and a volunteer from Ipswich TP's, as well as a Sudbury police representative. This was very helpful in helping our understanding of how the scheme works in other towns.
- Volunteer interviews began on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Peter Avery, Brian Stenner, and Kevin Jones interviewed 3 volunteers from Living Waters (Terry Richards, Denise Finch, and Neil Saunders). Applicants from other churches were not available that night but all interviews have now taken place. Interviews are partly based on interview templates provided by Ipswich Town Pastors.
- The first session of training (First Aid, given by St Johns Ambulance) took place on 1<sup>st</sup> June, attended by 12 volunteers. The next training sessions will be: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June (core values); Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June (Drug/Alcohol awareness); Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June (Personal Safety); Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June (Prayer).
- Peter and Kevin were on the streets on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May with police to reconnoitre, meet club doormen, talk to the public etc. (A quiet night – their very presence must have inspired respect! There were very positive comments about the proposed scheme from public & professionals. Most said that Saturday is the best night to be out).

The basic features of the scheme are:

- a) At least 2 TP's would be on the street each Saturday, from 10pm – 4am
- b) During the time they are out, at least 2 prayer supporters will be praying – linked in due course to the radio contact system
- c) The TP's will be linked by radio to Sudbury Police Station (with access to the CCTV operator.
- d) A minimum of 12 TP's are needed to start the project. So far 12 have volunteered, with another 6 potential candidates. Additionally 12 are needed for the prayer team: 10 have signed up.
- e) All TP volunteers and leaders will be interviewed and CRB checked before starting.
- f) Funding: there are costs for training, clothing, radios etc. Grants are being sought from the Community Safety Partnership, Babergh DC, Local Strategic Partnerships, and others.
- g) The plan is to start on the streets on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## Relationship to CTiS&D

Peter's preferred model is that the TP scheme is not directly run by CTiS&D, but is supported by it (under its "umbrella") (see note below). Initially it would be run by the existing team (Pastor Peter Avery (Chair and joint co-ordinator), Kevin Jones (L. Waters, (joint co-ordinator), Clare Napper (SBC) - (treasurer, working with Kim Jones); Frank Marsden (Gt Waldingfield); and Rev. Brian Stenner (SBC). (Pastor Steve Millard officially remains in the team and it is hoped he will soon resume an active role). Later it is hoped to form a charitable trust, registered with the Charity Commission (this is the model used by Woodbridge TP's).

While it remains unincorporated it would publish an annual Report & Accounts, available to CTiS. Additionally in the early stages at least, regular updates to the Forum would help to encourage interest & support. Some financial support may be sought from CTiS&D in the future but it looks likely that initial setup costs will be covered by grants.

[ NOTE: Currently there are 4 different ways in which projects relate to CTiS.

1. *Those which are run & managed directly by CTiS&D: either through the Enabling Group or by a person or committee appointed or approved by it. Eg Kettle & Fish; Christmas Hampers; Praise on Market Hill etc. Such projects are covered by CTiS&D insurance and report to the Forum. Money goes through the CTiS&D Treasurer. All policy and practice is open to review by the Forum.*
2. *Projects originating in a member church or registered charity, and managed by that church or charity, but adopted by CTiS&D for support, including financial support as & when agreed by the Forum: Eg Marriage Focus Group, Eden's, Future Vision. Their accounts are open for inspection. They have their own insurance.*
3. *Events which are approved by the Forum but which a member church (or group of churches) or individual church ministers/leaders may take charge of. Eg most of the CTiS&D joint services; Christmas afternoon service; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service/midweek events; Lent course; Good Friday witness. These are organised in co-operation with EnGp and the Forum. They are advertised as CTiS&D events and are covered by CT insurance.*
4. *One-off or short-term events which further the aims of CTiS&D, organised by individual churches or groups of churches, which are approved by the EnGp or Forum as events which may carry the endorsement "supported by CTiS&D". Eg Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoebox collections; All Age Worship.]*

Town Pastors would be in category 2.

We suggest the following motion be put to the Forum on 17<sup>th</sup> June:

"The Forum agrees to support to the Town Pastor scheme as outlined in today's Report. Member churches are urged to seek out and encourage suitable people to volunteer as TP's or Prayer Team members; to pray regularly for the work; and to offer such other support as is appropriate".

*Roger Pullan & Peter Avery*

## **Report from SUDBURY WATCH! June 2009**

It is becoming clear to SW that decisions about the future of both hospital and GP healthcare in Sudbury are coming to some kind of conclusion. Once decisions are agreed we hope that they will be put into practice, even in these times of economic uncertainty. We shall need to be as vigilant for the people of Sudbury as ever.

An Outline Business Case (OBC) has been finalised and the method of contract procurement chosen. Just heard it is further delayed but it is with the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) for East Anglia for their consideration! Once they have given their approval it will be offered to tender in the UK and the EU. Growing out of SW we have formed a not for profit social enterprise company and this has been registered at Company's House with six local directors. Our local social enterprise company will be involved, in conjunction with a sympathetic developer, in bidding to win that tender to build health facilities in Sudbury. The cost of building would be covered by the developer but we hope that by this method of joint working we will be able to gain a significant community input and long term community investment directly in Sudbury's future health care and facilities.

Whether our joint social enterprise bid is successful or not we are confident that Sudbury will eventually enjoy health facilities better suited to the needs of the town in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These will be the fruit of many years of work by SW and WHAC and other campaigns that came before us. You may have noticed recently that the PCT (NHS Suffolk) has been boasting about what a wonderful new X – Ray facility the town has – but thanks of course to the intervention of WATCH! and not the PCT who wanted to get rid of it! The new X-Ray facility has doubled throughput and halved the amount of time taken to get the results to GPs by using secure digital intranet (internal Internet) transfer and the whole unit will be transferred to the new health facility when it is built. We have also been assured that we will get ultra sound scanning as well in the new building.

Yet because these provisions need to comply with the Secretary of State's requirements after the Independent Re-Configuration Panel's (IRP) recommendations it is unlikely that the NHS will provide any beds in the new Sudbury facility. NHS funded beds will be provided in local residential and nursing homes and the number of these has yet to be agreed. SW will watch this closely because we have never forgotten that this issue is the bedrock of our campaign. It is not impossible for one to conclude that our work has failed if there are no beds provided. However SW believes that it put a good case for local beds to the IRP but they chose to reject it. So we might well have to undergo the experience of "care in the community". But we shall monitor that and maintain pressure for more NHS beds in Sudbury if the new system falls short.

Whether a change of government next year will make any significant changes to local health care remains to be seen. It is important that we get this project finalised now in the current financial year. Although the PCT is not paying for this development in Sudbury they have made a substantial financial investment in terms of consultant advice on how to proceed and tender. Health budgets nationwide (along with everything else) are likely to suffer major cuts from 2010/11 onwards. So please spread the news that SW is still very active. It meets formally every month. Our dedicated chairman Peter Clifford almost "lives" the NHS: the locality group, WSH governorship, the social enterprise company and a host of contacts and advisers to SW. SW updates our MP Tim Yeo who also meets regularly with the PCT

chairman. And besides reporting regularly to you we also plan to hold another public meeting when we have some definitive news.

Thank you for your support – and patience.

Richard Titford

Report from REVIVE, the group for younger adults

Revive is continuing to go well. We are still having up to 15 people on an evening; however, that's not a constant number as not everybody can come every time Revive is on.

We recently had Rev Nigel Ford come to do an evening for us, talking about worship, and it was one of our best evenings so far.

We'll be taking a break over the summer and starting again in September. Due to a lot of people leaving Sudbury, our numbers will have dropped dramatically so we will be praying for some new people.

But God is continuing to bless us and Revive is still going well.

Rob Greenow.