

**MINUTES OF CTIS & DISTRICT OPEN FORUM & AGM
SALVATION ARMY HALL - 7.30PM - 12TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

1. **Present:** 51 people (10 ministers and 41 laity) from 15 churches
2. **Apologies:** The Revds Jamie Allen and Ian Friars, Stuart Ayling, Diane Badrick, Bob Bird, Audrey Cox, Ian Copeman, Andrew Dixey, Mary Haselden, Malcolm & Judith Offord, Eleanor Ridge, Tony Wheeler.

The Meeting was preceded by refreshments and an opportunity to view an extensive range of Tearcraft & Fair Trade goods set up by Rose Loy of Kelvedon

3. **Welcome and Worship:** Roger Pullan (Chairman) welcomed everyone and thanked Rose Loy and her husband for their wonderful display of Tearcraft & Fair Trade goods, before introducing Major Neville Andrews who led a time of worship and prayer using a passage from Matthew Chapter 9:35 – 38. With signs of the harvest all around, Neville felt that it was a good time to think of the spiritual harvest in Sudbury. People had been harassed and helpless in the time of Jesus as they were today, and we too need to get out to reach people and pray that God will send workers out into the harvest. A short film entitled ‘There will be God’ underlined the message.
4. **Welcome to the new team from Eden’s** including **Neil Holmes the new Operations Manager** – having worked at Lloyds TSB for 18 years, Neil (a member at Suffolk Road Church) felt called to Christian work. He will be in charge of administration, paper work and finances.
 - **And the 5 ‘MyYearOut’ students:**
 - Ellie from Worcester** – she will be working with Jamie Allen in St Andrew’s parish in Great Cornard.
 - Chelsea from Texas, USA** – she will be based at the Sudbury Baptist Church, and will help with Future Vision.
 - Matt Ayrton** of Acton – an NFA Football coach Level 1.
 - Matt Hunt** of Sudbury - to concentrate on the music ministry, with Andy Beard.
 - Andy Beard** of Bures – to work part time at the Stevenson Centre and at Eden’s.
 - Eden’s are looking forward to hosting a production of the Rock Musical ‘Luv Esther’ on its visit to East Anglia in November, hopefully at the Sudbury Upper School Auditorium on November 3rd.
 - The Revd Simon Gill (a Trustee of Eden’s) prayed for the five students as they begin their year of service.

Welcome to Andrew Stewart-Darling of the Stour Valley Vineyard Church

Andrew (with 20 years experience in advertising, and who still works at a company in Shoreditch) and his wife Emma, were commissioned on 9th September at the Bury St Edmunds Vineyard Church to start a church plant in Sudbury to reach the non-churched /non-Christians. Andrew and Emma (who was unable to attend as their daughter had an operation that day) had been called from an Anglican Church plant in London into the country having heard that church attendances in rural churches had gone down by one third in ten years. They moved to Sudbury from Twickenham, with their three daughters two years ago in response to the call ‘Who will go?’ Their vision is to gather and grow new congregations. The Revd Marion Bright offered prayer for Andrew and Emma and family.

5. **Minutes of the Open Forum held at Glemsford on 6th June:** Circulated and approved. No matters arising, not covered in the Agenda.
6. **Treasurer’s Annual Report and Accounts:** Received and approved

The Chairman thanked Peter Heard, for the great deal of work he does for Churches Together throughout the year.

7. **Annual Report for 2006 - 2007:** Jane Kohler went through the highlights of the very busy year (see the written Annual Report).

8. **Chairman's Review:**

1. Began with THANKS to:

i) Enabling Committee: Roger Pullan (RP) thanked Malcolm Offord for his support during the year, and drew the Forum's attention to the fact that Peter Heard had just completed his 17th year as Treasurer. There was a round of applause from the floor, as there was for Malcolm Snow when RP commended his wonderful work as Communications Officer for Churches Together, and for Jane Kohler who was also warmly thanked as she was stepping down after two years as Secretary, and 11 years on the Enabling Committee. RP thanked other members of the Committee for their hard work and fortitude in coping with long meetings.

ii) Kettle & Fish: RP thanked Ray Delaney for taking over the Chairmanship at short notice from January to August.

iii) Way Inn Soup Kitchen: This had had to be suspended in March. RP thanked Peter Sebbage, David Ford, Neville Andrews and Stuart Read, and all the volunteers.

iii) New Ministers: RP commended the new Ministers who had so quickly become involved in Churches Together and been very helpful in organising the Lent Courses as well as hosting the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Nigel Ford had led three main events, as well as taking part in planning CTiS faith-sharing and healing groups.

iv) He named and highly commended the team which organised Praise in the Park.

2. REVIEW: Many of the year's events had been for foundation-building: drawing us closer to one another, training, seeking vision for mission. These are not ends in themselves but prepare us for mission. Surely we are being called to make Christ's ministries (eg of support, counsel, healing, teaching, sanctuary) more accessible to the 80-90% of the community outside the Church. Public events on Market Hill at Christmas and Easter; public Baptisms and worship, and the open door of Kettle & Fish, were all responses to that call. We plan to continue this path next year. We continued our warm support for community projects (Edens, Future Vision, N:vision, Marriage, WATCH! and **Christmas Hampers** (to be repeated this year).

He ended with a plea for those present to share the vision of 'strength through unity' with others in their churches.

Peter Sebbage proposed a vote of thanks for Roger Pullan. Heartily endorsed

9. **Elections:**

i) Roger Pullan was re-elected Chairman, Dr Malcolm Offord as Vice-Chairman, and Peter Heard as Treasurer. Linda Sebbage was elected as Honorary Secretary – Gay Layburn agreed to act as Deputy Secretary.

ii) The Kettle & Fish Steering Committee recommended Dr Malcolm Offord as its Chairman and Manager, and Valerie Ford as Deputy Manager. Forum approved the appointments.

iii) The Enabling Committee of Malcolm Snow (Communications Officer), Diane Badrick (alternating with Carol Smith, both of St John's Methodist), David Ford (Cornard Christian Fellowship), Christopher Proffitt (U.R.C.), Eleanor Ridge (Sudbury Baptist), Sheelagh Ruse (Quakers), – confirmed by Forum.

10. **Watch! Update (Working and Acting Together for a Community Hospital):** The Revd Richard Titford has worked tirelessly as representative of Churches Together in the on-going battle

against a very difficult Primary Healthcare Trust. 3 more beds at Walnuttree are to be retained. Confidential discussions with three private service providers are being held - the results are not yet in the public domain, but the legal and moral fight to keep the Walnuttree Hospital open continues. The future of the Hospitals is to be decided in the coming year. With Tim Yeo working closely with WATCH!, the Sudbury case is soon to be referred to Alan Johnson the Health Minister, and a new fundraising appeal is to be launched. Richard Titford thanked the Forum for the trust they have in the Committee. He was given a warm round of applause.

11. **Kettle & Fish:** Valerie Ford addressed Forum in the absence of Malcolm Offord. She looked forward to sharing the task of management with Malcolm, as she felt that Kettle & Fish was something that the town really needed and that God's heart was in that ministry and He would use the K&F. It was a good way to meet with people who do not want to go to church, over a cup of coffee and food, and there were opportunities for ministry in prayer, literature, and simply coming alongside those who come in. Valerie gave a few hints about the revamp for K&F which will be unveiled during the second birthday celebration planned for October. **(See full written Report).**
12. **Future Events:**
- i) **Country Ramble planned for Saturday 20th October** – details Peter Sebbage.
 - ii) **Christmas Hampers – in planning stages** – details Peter Sebbage.
 - iii) **Christmas Bereavement Service:** The Revds Nigel Ford and Richard Titford were to experiment with a memorial opportunity on Christmas afternoon at St Peter's. The church would be open for two hours for people to come in to light candles and perhaps take part in a brief half hour act of worship. If this proved successful, others might conduct it next year.
 - iv) **Christmas: Carols on the Market Hill Friday 30th November (with SA Band, and St Andrews Choristers); Joint Service with Hospice on Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm at St Peter's.**
 - v) **Call to Prayer** - 10am – 2.00pm every Wednesday at Living Waters Apostolic Church.
 - vi) **Day of prayer for Peace:** 9am – 9pm Friday 21st September at URC.
13. **GREEN ISSUES:** The Revd Keith Horton gave a sobering talk on Climate Change – a concern which is often secondary to our daily lives but he asked us to acknowledge the facts that there was evidence of an increase in temperatures in the Antarctic over the last fifty years with resultant rise in sea levels and melting ice caps. Earth's resources were finite and we had to accept responsibility – the slogan 'Make Poverty History' has a new meaning - climate change will make poverty permanent. For those who live in the richer nations it is a quality of life issue - others should not suffer for our over-indulgence. We should act to avoid waste – eg by using public transport, reducing heating, and being more aware of reusing and recycling. (Full text available from Keith Horton).

The Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

The next Open Forum will be held on Wednesday 5th December 2007

Jane Kohler, Hon. Secretary

Signed:

Dated: