

MINUTES OF CTiS & DISTRICT OPEN FORUM

In The Lady Chapel, Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford

11th June 2008

1. **Welcome and prayer** - The Rev'd Ian Friars welcomed us and read from Acts remembering Barnabas and his ministry of encouragement. This was followed with prayer and for God's blessing on the meeting.

Sadly, due to ill health, special guest, Stuart Read from the Prison Fellowship was unable to attend.

Roger Pullan displayed the Community Award received from Babergh to CTiS&D and emphasised this award was achieved by many people from all churches.

He also welcomed **The Rev'd Gregory Webb** who was recently appointed as Priest in charge of St. Gregory's Church, Sudbury. Formerly a solicitor in Suffolk, he felt called to ministry soon after coming to faith. He and his family moved here from Bury St Edmunds, where he was Team Rector of the North Bury team Ministry. He expressed his pleasure at being in Sudbury and his keenness to work together with other churches in CTiS as "one church". Gregory was asked what his favourite bible passage is and explained that Romans 12: 2 perfectly summed up his walk with Christ.

David Hamand, Churchwarden and tour guide at HTLM gave a very interesting potted history on the Lady Chapel.

2. **Present: 45.** Roger Pullan in the Chair.
Apologies: Rev'd's Samantha White & Simon Gill; Ian Copeman, Bob Bird, Jane Kohler, Audrey Proffitt, Bob Rowe, Diane Badrick and Peter Halden.
3. **Minutes of Forum 28th February 2008 – Approved.**
4. **Matters Arising:**
From the last Forum which included Discussion Groups there were some areas that since then have been addressed and which were outlined by Lynda Sebbage:
 - (a) **Youth** – CTiS have suggested to Eden's Project they consider setting up a Youth Forum to include all young people from the various churches and this is now being considered.
 - (b) **Networking** – We have forged a close working partnership with the Town Council and they are fully supporting Praise on Market Hill (with a grant being received towards it) and the Mayor possibly attending the event.
 - (c) **Agape Meal** for the next Forum/AGM – if this Forum agrees we would run an Agape meal at St Peter's with The Rev'd Gregory Webb & Rev'd Samantha White presiding – **AGREED**
 - (d) **Local Press** – excellent links are being built, in particular with The Mercury. Chris Proffitt has also developed an excellent relationship with the press. Malcolm Offord explained there was a new brochure being produced for CTiS and that it was important to circulate copies to all the churches. Eleanor Ridge was thanked for her efforts in designing this leaflet and Andrew Phillips for financing the project.

5. **Treasurer's report** – Approved with thanks to Peter Heard for his work. In addition, finances for Praise on Market Hill (formerly Praise in the Park) were discussed. Funding of £400 is required - £100 grant received from Sudbury Town Council, with £300 required. Decision deferred until after oral report – later **Agreed**. General funds to be used to underwrite but we would walk out in faith and trust the Lord will provide the funds from elsewhere – churches, private donations etc.

6. **ORAL REPORTS**

- a) **WATCH – (Rev'd Richard Titford)** – see attached report

b) **Praise on Market Hill** – (David Ford). This is the largest outside event CTiS undertake each year and working together is time well spent. David outlined the programme including the Worship which is being hosted by Nick Harcourt Powell, with David Brierley, Archdeacon of Sudbury as the speaker. There is a weekly prayer group at Living Waters on Wednesdays from 1.30 – 2.15pm. All encouraged to join in – further information from Peter Sebbage. The theme of the event is *“Love changes Everything”* and everyone is encouraged to take someone along on the day. Volunteers are required: Two marshals, one BBQ worker and assistance with setting up the staging and chairs. Leaflets, posters and church magazine/pew leaflet articles are all available and have been circulated by email. Contact Peter Halden : 319368.

7. **WRITTEN REPORTS**

- * **Kettle & Fish** – (Malcolm Offord). The new tables have arrived. St Peter's cannot be used for K&F for the next three weeks.
- * **Eden's Project** – Latest Newsletter distributed to all.
- * **Marriage Focus** (The Rev'd Jamie Allen) Jamie highlighted some key points from his written report. Marriage at its lowest since 1862 with divorce rate now at 45%. The group have conducted a survey on marriage available on their web site: www.standrews-gc.org.uk All people are encouraged to complete the survey – married or not! Jamie has received considerable press coverage – both locally and nationally over the survey and prize of a garden shed. Keen to see all the churches support the group, advertise in their pew sheets etc. Next meeting 16th June at The Vicarage. Thanks were extended to Jamie for his work in this important area of ministry.
- * **Church in China** (John Nurser) John briefly outlined the work of the Friends of Church in China and suggested CTiS become corporate members (cost £30 p.a.). The Rev'd Gregory Webb supported proposal which was seconded by Sue Kistruck. **AGREED**
- * **Lent Course** follow-up: All Saints, CCF, Baptist, St Andrew's all running various courses for enquirers.
- * **Praise on Market Hill** – see earlier
- * **Christian Aid Week** (Malcolm Snow) MS thanked all involved. There is a Christian Aid petition for a better world available on their web site. He proposed that Sudbury needs someone to move the town towards being an official FairTrade town.
- * **Website and emails** (Malcolm Snow) MS reminded all to contact him if they need to be added to the circulation list
- * **Street Pastors: awaiting a report from enquiry group.**
- * **Debt counselling: possible training awaits a sponsoring church.**

8. **Future Dates & Events:**

- **Praise on Market Hill** – Sunday 13th July 2008
- **Forum & AGM** – Thursday 25th September 2008 at St Peter's
- **Visit to Oberamergau** – 2010 details circulated and further information available from The Rev'd Ian Friars on 310845
- **Open the Book** – Scripture Union event – 3rd July
- **Birmingham Salvation Army Choir** will be singing outside St Peter's on 28th February 2009 & 1st March.
- **28 June – 12 July 'The World in Harmony'** (see below)

9. **CTiS Constitution** – RP advised that 'rules' need to be put down and asked churches to study the proposed document and respond during next few months. May be adopted in September if not controversial. The Forum is the key decision making body. It should consist of two representatives from each church, plus CTiS&D officers and ministers, but is normally open for all churchgoers to attend (but not vote).

10. **A.O.B.**

Christian Promotion Book Trust – proposal that 120 Christian books worth £950 be purchased at a special price of £380 using either the general fund or Kettle & Fish monies and for these books to be donated to Sudbury library. This system is successfully running throughout the country. The books are mainstream Christian titles, devised in collaboration with libraries and will be the property of the library. They will have a bookplate to show from where they have been donated. John Nurser suggested we should enquire of the library first and if not acceptable to be placed and used in K & F. He also suggested a list of titles be available and circulated to all. **AGREED** – finance from K & F, catalogue in K & F and elsewhere. Nigel Ford to enquire with the library and advise.

'The World In Harmony' – Malcolm Hill mentioned the event which is taking place in Sudbury & District 28 June – 12 July with many activities throughout the district. Further information is available on www.worldinharmony.com

Andrew Stewart-Darling from The Stour Valley Vineyard Church spoke about the exciting work they are undertaking including various activities, healing, Alpha course, and ministry with social services.

Minutes Secretary – Urgently Required! – Roger requested people to consider whether they would be willing to undertake this role in place of Lynda who is unable to continue this part of the Hon. Sec.'s work due to ill health. This is not an onerous task and Lynda would be more than willing to give support and advice when needed.

New Curate ~ John Bleazard (with his wife Sarah) will soon be joining St Andrew's as curate; please pray for them.

Pastoral team – Peter Sebbage is co-ordinating a pastoral support team for Praise on Market Hill.

11. The Forum closed with prayer for several who are unwell; also for John & Sarah Bleazard, and for Fr. Peter Rollings who leaves Sudbury in August.

SIGNED as a true record on: / 2008 by
(Chair)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SUDBURY & DISTRICT

REPORT FROM SUDBURY WATCH! 11 JUNE 2008

Further to my report on 28 February 2008 I can now tell you that a "Locality Group" (LG) has been created by the PCT in response to the requirements of the IRP (Independent Reconfiguration Panel). It is chaired by Dr. Anne Nichols, a retired consultant, yet organised and much controlled by the PCT and its chief executive Carole Taylor-Brown (CTB)... you might have read in the local press of, or witnessed at the Annual Town Meeting, certain difficulties experienced by Sudbury Town Council with CTB over the matter of who represents it! SUDBURY WATCH! (SW) is ably represented by our chairman Peter Clifford who spends ages negotiating with many parties who are embroiled in LG work.

The aims of the LG are to implement the demands of the IRP. In particular to discuss and now to request tenders for the provision of new premises on a new site (within a mile radius of the town centre) with sufficient space for GPs from Hardwicke House (HH), a community care team and PCT provided treatment and clinics.

Current supplier of premises to the HH practice (Apollo) is tendering and SW is now hurriedly (PCT went for the fast track 37 day method) encouraging the formation of a company to provide an alternative, tender. HH want to use the Belle Vue site, about which there has been and doubtless will continue to be heavy local objection. SW favours the site on Churchfield Road for many reasons, not least because we are still campaigning for the local provision of specialist re-hab beds, the cause which originally set Sudbury ablaze with indignation when the previous PCT first proposed closing Walnuttree and St Leonards Hospitals (WH & SL).

SW continues to meet monthly to share members' work, to explore its links with West Suffolk Hospital (WSH), scrutinize every PCT action relating to Sudbury including the future of all NHS sites in the town, note what is happening with People's Park and the WSH application for foundation status and to further its vision of there being a community health centre in the town for the benefit of all Sudbury & district people.

Richard Titford