

# Minutes of Churches Together in Sudbury & District Open Forum & AGM at St Peters, Market Hill on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The meeting followed an Agape supper attended by some 60 people.  
It was opened with prayer by the Rev Gregory Webb.

## 1 Welcome and Farewell

A welcome was extended to the Rev John Bleazard who was joining St Andrews Great Cornard as a curate, and to Gill Phillips who had been co-opted as Minutes Secretary. In his absence a welcome was also extended to Father Peter Brett, the new priest at Sudbury Catholic Church.

Good wishes were extended to Marion Bright who would be retiring at the end of November. Members were asked to sign a card to Marion.

## 2 Present: 79 people from 17 churches.

## 3 Apologies

Apologies from Doreen and David Hamand and Val and Alan Theobald (Holy Trinity Long Melford), and from David and Felicity Stranack (St Gregory's).

## 4 Minutes of previous Forum

The minutes of the Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were approved.

## 5 Matters Arising: none.

## 6 Treasurer's Annual report and Accounts

The Treasurer presented the Accounts for the year 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August. It was noted that Kettle & Fish had made a considerable difference to the finances of CTiS. It was proposed that payments made under the guidance of the Enabling Committee should be approved. It was agreed that the report provided by the Treasurer should be adopted. Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer for all his work. (*Copy of financial report available on request.*)

## 7 Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave an overview of the work of CTiS as a PowerPoint presentation, saying it had been another year of encouraging progress. It was emphasised that Kettle & Fish is an excellent contact point in the town centre and that Praise on Market Hill had reached an even wider audience this year. A text version of the report, which emphasises the enormous amount achieved in the last twelve months through joint church action, was circulated by Malcolm Snow on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

## 8 Written Reports on the year's work: as circulated.

## 9 Oral Reports

### ***Praise on Market Hill: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2008***

Peter Halden in reporting made the following points:-

- It showed how united churches in Sudbury can be
- Plans for 2009 are being considered
- The date for 2009 would be 5<sup>th</sup> July (*not 12<sup>th</sup> July, previously circulated*).
- Everybody and every church could help either creatively, practically or pastorally
- Ideas were needed, as was a "catchy" title.

Finance was also needed – a daylight projector would be a great asset. A proper budget would be put together for 2009. All churches were asked to consider how much they could contribute.

A letter of appreciation from the Town Clerk was read.

**WATCH!** (*Working and Acting Together for a Community Hospital!*)

Richard Titford gave a detailed report on the two main issues facing WATCH!. A copy of his report is attached.

**Lent Course**

Churches were invited to say what action had been taken in their churches following the Lent Course which had focussed on "Sharing our Faith".

- All Saints had run a SMART course (an introduction to Christianity), and were planning for "Back to Church Sunday".
- Springlands had held a special service for children and their parents.
- Quakers had run a Quest.
- Living Waters have been running a POPIN (Provision provided for people in need ) Centre for 3 days a week; they were also seeking to find homes for 2 homeless men; 6 people had turned to the Lord.
- St Andrews were running a START course.
- Sudbury Baptists were running an Explorer course for those with doubts; INVITE was a series of activities for church and non-church members; they were hoping to run an Alpha course.
- Cornard Christian Fellowship had had people giving their lives to Christ.

**Edens**

In addition to the written report it was noted that David Cornes, who is a volunteer working at Edens, still needed accommodation for the next year.

**18-30's**

Jon Halden explained that he was hoping to start a worship group for the 18 – 30 age group – possibly worshipping quarterly at St Peters. Rob Greenow was also hoping to start a group for this age range which might meet fortnightly to study, worship, discuss and socialise.

Both these proposals received the support of the AGM.

**10 Chairman's observations**

- Warm thanks to the Officers and Enabling Group
- Hoped everyone was reading emails from Malcolm Snow so they were aware of what is happening and what is being achieved;
- It was clear CTiS was really achieving something – for example, one church on its own could not support Edens;
- The Lent course challenged us to share our faith – but are we really ready for growth? Do we realise how big the cultural gap is between those in the church and those outside?
- Should we be considering together ways of bridging the gap – eg more accessible times of services; teaching style?

**11 Elections**

Chairman – Roger Pullan was proposed by Eleanor Ridge and seconded by Steve Millard. Roger said that this would be his last year as Chairman. He was elected.

Vice Chairman – Malcolm Offord proposed by Margaret Tracey and seconded by Simon Gill - elected.

Treasurer – Peter Heard proposed by Paul Mizen and seconded by Nigel Ford was elected.

Executive Secretary – Lynda Lunn proposed by Lynda Sebbage and seconded by Jamie Allen was elected.

Minutes Secretary – Gill Phillips proposed by Steve Pugh and seconded by Philip Richardson was elected.

Warm thanks were expressed to all those who served throughout the year, with special appreciation to Lynda Sebbage as she retires as Secretary.

The appointments of Malcolm Offord as Chair and Manager of Kettle and Fish, and Val Ford as Deputy Chairman and Deputy Manager were ratified.

Additionally the following representatives were agreed:

WATCH! - Rev Richard Tifford  
Hospital Development Team – Rev Gregory Webb  
Christmas Lights – Lynda Sebbage  
Sudbury Town Partnership – Chris Proffitt  
Friends of St Peters – Chris Proffitt  
Local Strategic Partnerships – Peter Sebbage.

## **12 Joint Service Collections**

The Enabling Group had proposed that the collections made at joint services should be distributed as follows:-

October – Edens  
January – Future Vision for the “Open the Book” project  
May – Christian Aid  
July [if collection made] – CTiS expenses  
The AGM agreed with these proposals.

## **13 Future Events**

30<sup>th</sup> November – “**Light up a Life**” service at St Peters for St Nicholas’ Hospice.

It was noted that the full calendar of events was available on the CTiS website.

The **Christmas Tree Festival** would be held in St Peters at the beginning of December. Half the profits this year would be donated to CTiS for a worthy cause. All churches were asked to consider decorating a tree. A volunteer to decorate a tree on behalf of CTiS was needed. Volunteers would also be needed to man the Kettle and Fish refreshments stand for the duration of the Festival.

Ideas for the Lent study were sought. It was suggested that if anyone had any, they should be sent to the Enabling Group.

No further ideas for future activities were forthcoming.

## **14 Proposed CTiS & D Constitution**

There had not yet been sufficient response from churches. This item would be deferred until the next Forum by which time churches would have had sufficient time to consider the proposed constitution.

## **15 News from the Churches**

There was nothing additional to item 8 to report.

## **16 AOB**

**Shoe Box Appeal – Samaritan’s Purse** (*Items for needy children abroad at Christmas*)

Nina Harding explained that with the establishment of a full export warehouse in Sudbury, work was expanding and there would be a need for a lot more shoe boxes and a lot more helpers – who would need specific training. Information was available for distribution to churches who might want to donate boxes or provide volunteer helpers.

### **Belle Vue**

Harry Smith explained the problems facing the over 55 lunch club because of the uncertainty of the future of Belle Vue House. He asked if some thought could be given to extending the Kettle & Fish ministry to these people in some way.

### **Romanian Churches**

David Ford said he had taken CTiS greetings to 3 churches in Romania. Christian greetings had been sent back to CTiS from these churches.

## **17 Closing Prayer:** Rev Simon Gill closed the meeting with prayer.