



**Minutes of the Open Forum held on Wednesday 15th June 2011
at Glemsford Methodist Church**

Present: 38 people from 13 churches

Apologies: Nigel Ford, Gill Phillips, David Rout, Chris Ramsey, Andrew Dixey, Ray Delaney, Pat Ford, Diane Badrick

1. The Chair welcomed all those attending and thanked everyone involved in the hosting of the BBQ.
2. John Boardman welcomed everyone to Glemsford and shared the difficulties and delights of working in the churches in the village. Glemsford is a mainly rural area with only one main employer locally, Phillips Avent, which means that people commute to find work. There are also social problems. The congregations of St Mary's and the Methodist Church are small, but they work closely together with an ecumenical Bible Study during the week and a joint Youth Club on a Monday evening and, sometimes members of one congregation will be seen in a service at the other church. The Youth Club is run on an Open House basis from 7-9 and SCA (Supporting Contemporary Adolescents) are also involved. Volunteers, to help with refreshments at the Youth Club, would be very welcome.

There is also a vibrant village life in which the churches participate

Rev John Boardman then opened the Forum with prayer.

Peter Halden listed the people who were leaving the area to go and serve the Lord elsewhere. John Blezard from St Andrew's who is going to his first church in the Wirral, Chris Baker, Lavenham Salvation Army, and Neville and Yvonne Andrews, Sudbury Salvation Army. Their final service will be on Sunday July 10th at 3.00pm and their successors Tom and Jean Crozier will be welcomed at a service on July 31st also at 3.00pm.

Major Neville Andrews shared about their new work in the Southend area. For the first time in 25 years they will have separate ministries. Yvonne as Corps Officer at the Southend Southchurch corps and Neville as the chaplain of the Hadleigh Salvation Army Training Centre where many skills are taught to the young unemployed and those with learning difficulties. There is also a visitors centre where everyone is welcome.

Peter Halden shared that Yvonne had been unable to come to the Forum as she was at home monitoring their son Pieter who had been severely beaten at school that day. Prayers were said for Pieter and the family.

Peter Halden also thanked Margaret Tracey for being willing to take on the archivist role for CTiS&D.

3. The minutes from the Forum on 2nd March 2011

One alteration was made the title 'Rev' being removed from Ian Copeman and then the minutes were approved as correct and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising which did not appear on the agenda.

4. Items for AOB, item 11, were received.

5. **Perspective Pregnancy Advice.** Michelle Jones from Perspective Pregnancy Advice gave a short talk and showed two videos outlining their work supporting people with: free pregnancy testing, pregnancy options advice, befriending, Pregnancy loss support, post abortion support, sex, relationships, pregnancy options and parenting education. The centre in Ipswich which comes under Care Confidential is run mostly by volunteers. There is no centre in West Suffolk. Is God telling us that that is what He wants in Sudbury - a point for consideration and prayer. For further information contact Allie Quayle on alliequayle@hotmail.com or see Perspectives website www.careconfidential.com/Ipswich/Default.aspx

6. Updates

a **Prayer 48** - Rev Greg Webb explained that the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 18th June 2011 would be part of Prayer 48 (17th June - 19th June) and would, therefore, be held in St Gregory's Church. The aim would be to focus on the church communities of Sudbury. Prayer 48 is focussing on the needs of St Gregory's parish and each householder, in the parish, should have received a prayer card to complete with items for prayer. Peter Sebbage will be doing imaginative prayer in St Gregory's grounds.

b **Christian Aid** - Malcolm Snow explained that owing to Christine Rogers being unwell he was once again giving the report. Sudbury and Cornard had collected £5008 whilst the total for Long Melford was £2186 and for Acton £675. Thanks were expressed to everybody involved.

c **Christian Aid Canoeing event** - Malcolm Snow outlined the event due to take place on 30th July when canoes would travel down the River Stour from Sudbury to Bures. All places are now taken, including one canoe from St Gregory's and another from Sudbury Baptist Church. Other local people may be taking part. Malcolm does not have all names as some registration forms went directly to Norwich. Sponsors are needed and the participants would be encouraged by a good send off from Sudbury, a welcome in Bures or cheering anywhere along the route. All funds raised will go to Christian Aid work in Burkina Faso. The European Union are quadrupling any money given, therefore £10 will become £40 or £50 if Gift Aided.

d **Pentecost Praise** - Peter Halden reported on the exceptionally good evening held on Sunday 12th June 2011. Thanks were expressed for the food provided by the Vineyard Church, the excellent worship led by Brian Thake and for the challenging message from Mark Melluish. Thanks too for the use of St Gregory's church. The retiring collection for Megan was £301

A suggestion was made that in future the church's own sound system should be used for the speaker.

7. **Written reports - I Spy Easter and Men Unleashed** had been circulated with the minutes.

8. **Questions and discussion on reports and other areas of CTiS&D work.**

Peter Halden - CTiS&D are involved in a lot of work all of which needs to be done well. All areas of the work need to be re-assessed on a regular basis.

e.g should the regular joint services be changed to be more on the lines of the Pentecost Praise service?

John Boardman commented that I Spy Easter was a wonderful example of getting out into the town. It was suggested that it should be repeated.

Malcolm Offord said that events were often spoiled by the sound systems which on various occasions, in various venues, had hindered peoples' participation - needs careful thought as to how it can be improved.

Peter Sebbage wondered if Sudbury could run a shop on the lines of the one in Heacham it would be a footfall with the Lord's name outside. There is also Mary's Room in Boxford.

Sheelagh Ruse told of an encouraging article in the Christianity magazine about running a coffee shop Kettle and Fish is the churches coffee shop in Sudbury, but it will be closed for the summer due to the Art Exhibition. Malcolm Offord is considering organising some events for the volunteers to keep up the momentum.

Peter Heard questioned as to whether No72 could be developed. It was felt this could be difficult because of it's present usage but would be an excellent place for any Pregnancy Support that might take place in Sudbury in the future.

Ideas of what we can do and thoughts on what we are doing are needed. Do you know of any good speakers, then pass them on.

9. **Treasurer's Report**

All payments were approved. Peter Halden expressed his thanks to Peter Heard for all his hard work.

10. **Other future CTiS&D events**

a. All known events until the end of the year are on the diary dates document. Please notify Malcolm Snow for next year's dates!!

b. There is now an online calendar as part of the website. Email Darren with any new dates thedarrenwkfld@googlemail.com .

11. **AOB**

a. **The Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art** will be held in St Peter's from 16th July - 21st August. It will be open from 10AM - 6PM seven days a week. Fliers are available so please make sure it is well publicised. John Boardman announced that

Graeme Garden, the co-ordinator of the event, would like a prayer said at midday every day of the exhibition. Any volunteers please contact John.

b. An extra event with **Mark Cazalet**. "**An interactive Reflection**" will take place on **Thursday 4th August at 7.00pm in St Peter's**. £5 can be paid at the door. All other events are in the flier.

d. **Sudbury and District Mencap Society** have a fund raising afternoon on **Saturday 9th July**. It will be held at 26 Abbey Road from 12.30 - 4.30 and tickets are £10 food is included.

e. **Party in the Park on Sunday 24th July 11.00am - 5.00pm**. CTiS&D have two areas to use. One will be for children and the other a quiet, reflective place for adults. Peter Halden appealed for someone to co-ordinate things. Judith Offord said she would co-ordinate the adult section. Future Vision are running the children's section but are unable to set it up on the day so please can you help? Face painters are also needed so if you know anybody please ask them. Shift work can be arranged. Lynda Lunn offered to do a couple of hours, in the adult section in the afternoon.

12 Date of next Forum and AGM - Wednesday 5th October 7 for 7.30pm at Suffolk Road Church.

13 The Forum closed with prayer led by *Greg Webb*.