

## **Minutes of the Forum held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at St John's Methodist Church**

The Forum was attended by 41 people from 13 churches and other organisations.

### **1a Opening Worship**

The opening worship was led by Rev John Boardman

### **1b Update on Fairtrade**

Rev John Boardman explained the five criteria needed to be achieved in order to be recognised as a Fairtrade town. The application had been submitted and three of the criteria had been met. Two criteria needed to be boosted – the number of events to raise the profile of Fairtrade in Sudbury and also the number of businesses serving fair-trade items to customers, clients or employees. Anyone who is aware of businesses who use fair-trade commodities were asked to let John Boardman know. A starter pack for businesses was being planned to introduce businesses to fair-trade. It was hoped to achieve fair-trade status half way through the year.

### **2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Rev Simon Gill, Margaret Tracey, Roger Pullan, Lynda Sebbage, Jane Kohler and Rev Richard Titford.

### **3 Welcomes**

The Chairman welcomed John Phillips and Ian Copeman, the speakers for the evening. The Chairman then explained to the Forum that he had contacted many of the ministers in order to gauge how CTiS&D was viewed by ministers. It was understood that ministers were extremely busy and that pressures on ministers meant their congregations were also under pressure. The responses received were on the whole positive but the underlying feeling was that CTiS&D should concentrate on a few things and do those well. The Chairman commented that we invented denominations and that CTiS&D should stand as the unity of Christ in Sudbury. Anything that we could do to strengthen our unity was important.

### **4 Minutes of the previous Forum**

The minutes of the Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

### **5 Matters arising from the minutes**

#### *a. Perspectives*

The Chairman explained that Perspectives was a Christian Pregnancy Advisory Service operating in Ipswich. CTiS&D had been looking to see whether it would be possible to assist with the establishment of a hub in Sudbury but this would not be possible. It would be necessary to set up a new centre in Sudbury. However, having looked into the costs, the establishment of a centre would not be possible. If No 72 wished to continue to work with Perspectives, CTiS&D would not object but would not be able to assist financially. It was noted that it might be possible for the Dorcas Fund to assist individual cases with transport costs to Ipswich if requested.

#### *b. Party in the Park*

This event run by the Sudbury Town Council would be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11.00 am. The cost of providing a Christian entertainer for a 10 minute slot had proved too high. Two pitches had been booked, one for a barbecue to be run by MiCS and one for a children's activity. Help with the children's activity would be needed, so if anyone

could spare an hour or two on that day, they are asked to contact Chris Rowe [tel: 01787 370844 email [c.m.rowe@talktalk.net](mailto:c.m.rowe@talktalk.net) ]

c. *CMA and CAP*

The Chairman reported that he had met with Emma Stewart-Darling and Ellie Reed who are currently involved with CAP and wish to continue working with CAP whose work can now be extended to help people on a 1:1 basis. Further training would be required for money coaches giving 1:1 support. The costs would be £150 per person together with a monthly registration cost of £10. For two people this would amount to a one off cost of £300 plus £240 per year. EnGp had considered this initiative and had agreed that cases of financial hardship were increasing, presenting a real need for advice and support. It was felt preferable to support and enable an existing church initiative rather than to start a new one. EnGp recommended that this initiative should be supported and Forum were asked to endorse this decision. Forum agreed that the money to enable two people to train as money coaches should be found by CTiS &D. To free up the two people who were prepared to undertake this training, they would like more people to volunteer to train to run CAP money courses. Any churches wanting a presentation about CAP volunteering should contact Chris Rowe [tel: 01787 370844 email [c.m.rowe@talktalk.net](mailto:c.m.rowe@talktalk.net) ] who would pass the information on to Ellie Reed.

d. *Marriage Focus Group*

Tim Ayrton had agreed to chair the Marriage Focus Group until the next Annual General Meeting at which appointments were made or ratified.

Rev John Boardman reported on the visit he and Rev Chris Ramsey had made to a Norfolk School to see how the "Explore" programme - aimed at showing teenagers the value of a committed relationship – operated. Couples were questioned by teenagers in the top two years of the school. The couples needed to be open and honest in answering all questions. It was hoped to introduce the programme in Sudbury, possibly at the Thomas Gainsborough School [Great Cornard Upper School]. If there were couples who felt they could help with this project by answering questions about their relationship, they were asked to contact John Boardman or Chris Ramsey.

**6 Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report had been circulated. There were no questions. It was noted that the CTiS&D logo had already been put on some church notice boards. The Forum adopted the treasurer's report.

**7 GO Start Community Transport**

John Phillips explained the history of community transport in the Sudbury area leading up to the establishment of GOStart in January 2011. He explained that funding came from different sources including the government. £100,000 had been raised following publicity in local media which had allowed GOStart to purchase three new buses which have been purpose built to a standard. These three buses will soon be on the road to assist in the service given to:

Age UK

Sudbury Upper School and Great Cornard Upper School

Primary School and Nursery children

Individuals who are unable to access public transport.

All drivers are volunteers, but receive training. Anyone wishing to volunteer as a driver or passenger assistant should contact John on 01787 242116.

In answer to a question, John outlined the current problems over patient transport to appointments.

The Chairman thanked John for his contribution to the Forum.

**8 Springlands Christian Fellowship**

Ian Copeman started by announcing that Education Sunday which had been postponed due to the snow, was now to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm at All Saints Church. Parking was available at St Gregory's School.

Ian had recently circulated a letter with a request for assistance in which he explained the history of Springlands Fellowship. He said that CTiS needed to recognise the original vision and that support was urgently needed. He explained that a possible answer could be that Springlands should be attached to a particular church who would assume responsibility for supporting Springland's work.

The nature of its mission was discussed. It was concluded that the subject was a matter for discussion in part by the ministers' meeting and in part by EnGp.

**9 Any Other Business**

a. *Christian Aid*

Malcolm Snow said that Christian Aid Week was approaching and more collectors were needed. Offers of help should be made to Malcolm Snow [01787 374096 email [malcolmsnow@onetel.com](mailto:malcolmsnow@onetel.com)] He also said that Christine Rogers who had taken over the role of local organiser had had to stand down as she was moving away. A new organiser was needed and members were asked to consider the matter prayerfully.

b. On April 12<sup>th</sup> there would be no Kettle and Fish.

c. Attention was drawn to the flyer advertising the Muslim/Christian dialogue on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

d. A Christian Book Reading Club was meeting at St Johns Church on Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 pm. The book was "The Shack" by Wm Paul Young. Everyone was welcome.

e. The next CAP money courses would be held at No 72 on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> May starting at 1.15 for 1.30 pm – then 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October

f. The Eden's event on 17<sup>th</sup> June was to be held at Delphi with Tony Anthony. It was hoped there would be a lot of support for this occasion.

g. There would be no Good Friday event this year, but ministers agreed that planning for Easter 2013 should be started soon.

h. David Ford drew attention to the meeting at CCF on 24<sup>th</sup> April when Ronney Heyboer, would be the speaker.

i. Mark Joiner said that the service times at Glemsford had changed

j. "Light Path" – an activity for Primary Schools would take place on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May at St Gregory's and the Roman Catholic church. Pupils would be looking at the life of monks and considering commitment and living in a community. Helpers, preferably CRB checked, would be needed between 8.30 am and 2.30 pm.

**10 Closing Prayer**

The meeting closed in prayer.