

## Minutes of the CTiS& District Forum held on Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 at St Gregory's Church Hall

39 people were present representing 15 churches

### 1 **Opening worship**

Canon Greg Webb welcomed the Forum to St Gregory's and led the Forum in opening worship.

### 2 **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Jane and Patrick Kohler, Lynda Sebbage, Liz Webber, Julia Perkins, Lynda Lunn, Andrew & Emma Stewart-Darling, Richard Titford and Pat Ford.

### 3 **Minutes of previous Forum**

The minutes of the Forum held on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising – the Chairman commented on the large number of activities that had taken place over the last 3 months and how successful they had been.

### 4 **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated. There were no questions, but the Treasurer was thanked for his very concise report. The Treasurer explained that it was proposed to increase the donation to Future Vision to £1000. He said that £1000 was to be allocated to Marriage Focus, £400 to the Healing Group, £300 to the 18-35s and £1500 to Events. He then explained the way that the affiliation donation was going to be revised now that CTiS&D was no longer paying rent for n:vision. Small churches would be asked to give £25 and larger churches £40. Although these figures represented an increase, churches would no longer be paying a contribution towards n:vision rent. A letter was being sent to all church treasurers to explain the new arrangements. Churches would be encouraged to continue to support Future Vision.

The Forum agreed with this proposal and approved the treasurer's report.

### 5 **Annual Reports**

The Chairman commented that the reports showed a tremendous range of activities taking place. He noted however that a number of reports requested help – particularly Town Pastors, Open the Book and Kettle and Fish.

- David Ford said that it was not clear what would happen about Christmas shoe boxes this year as Nina had stood down and a suitable warehouse had not been found although several had been approached. It was suggested that the Town Council should be approached.
- Tom Burrows said that Storehouse were using an empty school in Great Cornard. They would be collecting at Waitrose on 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> November. Anyone wishing to help could sign up at the Storehouse website.
- It was noted that the opening of the health centre would not be taking place in October
- Chris Rowe said that there were leaflets for every church about "The Healing Dilemma" course and other Spectrum courses.

### 6 **Chairman's Remarks**

- Nikki Dixon had agreed to be the **Press Officer** for CTiS& D. She was welcomed to the meeting. She was happy for individual churches to contact her when they needed publicity for an event. She can be contacted on the following email address [nicki.dixon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki.dixon@hotmail.co.uk)>

- **Explore** promotes discussion in schools about relationships. We have been paying a quarterly fee for Andy Beard who works on CTiS's behalf in this field. It had been agreed that in future we will only pay for the time he works in Sudbury. The next session in this area was to be at Thomas Gainsborough School on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Andy would be looking for couples prepared to answer questions about their relationship to accompany him into the school. It was noted that churches in Great Cornard had donated £600 to Thomas Gainsborough School for the purchase of Bibles – at the request of TGS.
- **Fair Trade** – John Boardman said he wished to know how many churches held Fair Trade certificates. These were awarded for three things
  - serving fair-trade tea and coffee
  - doing something to promote Fairtrade fortnight – which next year would be 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March and
  - doing something else related to Fairtrade in the life of the church
 The reason for gathering this information is to ensure that Sudbury's Fairtrade status is retained.
- **The Healing Dilemma** – information about this was available
- **Stuart Townend** - the concert on 17<sup>th</sup> November was being held in Bury St Edmunds but there were very few tickets left.
- **Jeff Lucas** – would be coming to Sudbury on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Tickets were available from Peter Halden. Posters and flyers were available for every church.
- **Christmas Tree Festival** - this would be held 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December. So far 40 applications had been received, from businesses, for trees. Very few churches had applied. Reps were asked to take this matter back to their churches so there was a church presence at this festival. It was hoped that CTiS would have a tree.

## 7 Elections

The following nominations had been received:-

Chairman	Malcolm Offord
Vice Chairmen	Peter Halden Lynda Sebbage
Treasurer	Peter Heard
Minutes Secretary	Gill Phillips

It was proposed that these officers should be elected en bloc. The Forum voted in favour of this proposal.

Chris Rowe was moving away from the area so was standing down as Executive Secretary. It was hoped to find someone to fill this post soon. Chris was thanked for the outstanding amount of work she had done for CTiS&D and then Malcolm Offord made a small presentation.

Peter Sebbage observed it was important to try and get some younger members involved in the work of CTiS&D. Possibly there should be a youth representative on the Enabling Group

## 8 Ratification of Appointments

The following appointments were ratified by the Forum:-

Chairman and Manager of Kettle and Fish	Ken and Christine Steel
WATCH	Richard Titford
Sudbury Town Partnership	Chris Proffitt
Friends of St Peters	Chris Proffitt

Malcolm and Judith Offord were thanked by Forum for their commitment to Kettle and Fish over several years.

## 9 **Asian Students' Christian Trust**

Tom Burrows spoke to the Forum about the Asian Students' Christian Trust – a charity caring for and educating vulnerable children in the Philippines. He explained that more disasters affect the Philippines than anywhere else in the world and he added that the Philippines is the only Asian country which is considered Christian. He said that

- Children live in cemeteries and forage for a living on rubbish dumps
- There is a lot of solvent abuse – a form of escapism
- It is very difficult for children to settle – they are likely to return to the streets

The Trust's projects are named after fruits.

*Mango Tree House* is a children's home for abandoned, abused and neglected orphans. *Cashew Tree Learning Centre* is for children aged 5 – 7. It is on the edge of the largest rubbish tip. The children value the education and the chance to break the cycle of poverty. Tom added that poverty is not the result of being lazy – the people work incredibly hard.

*Grapevine Ministry* – supports children within the family. Money is provided to help with education. Importantly families are kept together.

*Papaya Academy* – is a non-residential school for children aged between 6 and 12. Football is being used to draw children to Christ.

*Pica Livelihood Co-op* – is a project to help adults use materials from rubbish tips to make goods for sale.

Literature about the Trust was available.

Tom was thanked for his presentation.

## 10 **Any Other Business**

- Simon Gill referred to the current issues with Wonga. He said that there was a Credit Union in Sudbury – it was important to raise its profile and ensure people were aware of it.
- Tom Burrows said that Stour Valley Vineyard Church will be running an Alpha course, starting on **Thursday 9 October at 7:30pm**. Anyone who was interested was welcome to join the course. A CAP course was also due to start.
- Rev Malcolm Hill said that in the past, the United Nations Association had arranged hustings at the time of a general election. He asked whether CTIS&D would take this on. Malcolm Offord agreed that this would be done.
- Malcolm Offord thanked St Gregory's Church for their hospitality.

## 11 The meeting closed with the Grace