

## Minutes of the Forum held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Sudbury Baptist Church

Attendance: 43 people representing 14 churches attended the Forum

Apologies: Apologies were received from Rev Sam White, Rev Simon Gill, Deacon Hilary Smith, David and Pat Ford, Diane Badrick, Jean Willings, Penny Thewlis, Rev Jenny Seggar, Carol Smith.

- 1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Forum and thanked Rev Nigel Ford and the deacons for allowing the use of the church for the Forum.
- 2 The opening worship was led by Rev Nigel Ford
- 3 **Update on Sudbury Baptist Church**  
Rev Nigel Ford explained that during 2009 the focus for the church had been the work of the team sent to Soweto. Courtesy of modern technology, the team's work had involved the whole church who had been able to keep up-to-date with their progress.  
This year the big theme is children's mission, concentrating on pre-school and primary school age children. Messy church was being developed - Bible stories with food, craft and fun. The church planned to appoint a full-time children's worker. It would be a huge step of faith for the church.  
In addition, house groups were being run across Sudbury.
- 4 **Minutes of the Previous Forum**  
The minutes of the Forum held on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 were approved as correct and signed by the Chairman.
- 5 **Treasurer's Report**  
The Treasurer's report had been circulated in advance.  
A number of payments were detailed in the report. The forum approved the payments.  
Thanks were expressed to Peter Heard for all the work he did as Treasurer.
- 6 **Marriage Focus Group**  
Marriage Focus Group felt that it would be appropriate if ownership, and responsibility for their finances, should pass to CTiS&D. St Andrew's PCC had agreed to this proposal and EnGp recommended to Forum that this should be done. A small amount of money would transfer to the CTiS accounts. It was noted that some financial procedures might need to be clarified but Forum agreed that Marriage Focus Group should come fully under the umbrella of the CTiS
- 7 **Oral Reports**
  - a) *Easter Story*
    - Eleanor reported that everything was going beautifully, but that she still needed 6 disciples who would only need to attend one rehearsal on 31<sup>st</sup> March at CCF at 7.30 pm.
    - Prayers were being answered and the Lord's hand could be seen in this venture.
    - There were two needs – people to go through the crowd handing out copies of "Why Easter?" , and transport for the cross which was at All Saints to St Peters for a rehearsal of the Roman soldiers next Thursday. Martin Sparks volunteered.
    - The costs should be less than £1300 but a final budget could not be given yet.
    - Material for costumes would still be welcome
    - Flyers and posters were available for each church to take away with them.

The Forum recognised that a huge debt of gratitude was owed to Eleanor for all that she had done.

*b) Kettle and Fish*

- Malcolm Offord suggested that it was a measure of the success of K&F that people complained when they were not open
- The increase of candles, prayer material and listeners had helped produce a sense of comfort for those coming into the church.
- A great mix of people used the facility.
- Thanks were expressed to all those who set up, and took down week by week and to all the volunteers, and to Judith for all her planning and purchasing.

*c) WATCH*

Richard reported that

- The NHS East of England Strategic Health Authority had approved the NHS Suffolk Primary Care Trust outline business case for Sudbury. Negotiations are continuing and the tender could be submitted by May 2010.
- It is hoped that a general election will not affect the Sudbury project.
- The two most likely sites remain a rebuild at Walnuttree or at Church Field Road. Historical sensitivity of the Walnuttree site and restricted access make this the less likely alternative.
- WATCH has been directly involved in the process of finding 8 residential home beds in Sudbury for intermediate care and 4 nursing home beds.
- As a direct result of representation by WATCH a substantial additional budget and 13 extra staff have been allocated by the PCT to provide 24 hour intermediate care throughout West Suffolk.
- Watch believed that their stance of being sensible and helpful to NHS Suffolk is paying off to the benefit of the people of Sudbury and District

Questions were asked about Parish Nursing and whether CTiS would consider funding a nurse.

d) David Lamming was introduced to the Forum. He would be fronting some meetings prior to the election, supported by Russell Badrick. A hustings would be held in the Town Hall at a date to be fixed - run jointly in the name of The United Nations Association & Churches Together in Sudbury & District

*e) Alive on Market Hill*

The Chair reported that Godfrey Birtill had agreed to come – he is a superb musician.

£3000 has been set aside from Kettle and Fish to finance CTiS events such as Alive on Market Hill. It was hoped all churches would make donations to this fund.

**8 Written Reports**

Written Reports had been received from Town Pastors, MICS, Future Vision and the Healing Ministry. These had been circulated with the agenda.

**9 “How to support churches in providing for the 20-30 age group”**

Ben Gardner from St Johns, Woodbridge was introduced and welcomed.

He explained, under the heading “Missio Dei – Youth and Young Adults” some of the factors which needed to be taken into account if work with this age group was to

be developed. He gave the Forum 10 key starting points. These are attached to the minutes. He summarised by saying that firstly, prayer was needed. Secondly, listen to the church and hear what they wish to leave as a legacy and thirdly listen to people in the local area.

A vote of thanks was passed to Ben Gardner

The Chair proposed that CTIS&D should set up a task force to help churches with this challenge. Roger Pullan seconded the proposal and the Forum was overwhelmingly in favour. The Chair suggested that anyone who wished to be involved with this project should contact him. It was a subject which could be discussed at the meeting with ministers on 9<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 10 **Any Other Business**

- Tim Ayrtton said that No 72 had received permission to turn the area in Siam Gardens into an Easter garden for Good Friday and Easter Day.
- Prayer was requested for pupils in Middle Schools as it was understood there was a real problem with inappropriate use of mobile phones and internet.
- Kevin Jones appealed for more volunteers to be town pastors.
- The Suffolk Churches Together Council Meeting would be held at Sudbury Baptist Church on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Edens were collecting CD's in their original cases – more details in their current newsletter.
- Jonathan Gilmour would be speaking over the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> March – Sudbury Baptist in the morning service and Suffolk Road in the evening

#### 11 **Closing Prayer**

Malcolm O closed in prayer.

## **REPORTS FOR CTIS&D FORUM 4 MARCH 2010**

### **Town Pastors Report**

I have written this report and placed within it a report from a Town Pastor (TP) whilst on duty this it is hoped will give people an insight to a night on our streets. This is alternate week's i.e. Saturday night one week and Friday night the next.

#### ***Brief report of the night of Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2010***

Town Pastors on duty: Danice Finch and Frank Marsden.

Prayer Base: Peter & Lynda Sebbage.

Started the evening with a fine, clear skied, cold, but windless outlook.

After a minor sort out with the Radios, and prayer, we left Base at 10.05pm, signing on with Barry on duty at CCTV.

Making our way from Market Hill, via the Market Place into North Street, we encountered a good number of younger people on the streets, as well as in the White Horse, and the other main establishments, with the exception of the Prince, whose doorman exhorted us to send some more his way, as he was feeling left out of the busyness!

The Silkworm was fairly packed due to a Tesco's staff party, the members of which were well done up in fancy costumes of various kinds, and some of whom we were to encounter on the streets, at various stages during the night. "Superman" made a frequent appearance, but differed in stature, depending on where we were!

The doorlady on duty at the Silkworm asked us (around midnight) if we would stay with a lady, fairly inebriated, propped up against the wall just outside the main door, as she was encountering problems with arranging transport home, but shortly after, a member of staff who knew her, offered to give her a lift.

We didn't have any lengthy conversations with those on the streets, as is sometimes the case, but the feedback was at one time "my mate needs converting to Jesus", but as the group were obviously not in serious mode and at an advanced alcohol stage, we declined the offer of interaction.

Two young lasses were in a quite bad way, suffering alcohol excess, and both were provided with foil blankets. Lying on the ground, with nothing between them and the frost (for they were both very scantily clad) is not the best end to an evening out(!), and in both instances their friends arranged for them to have relatives collect them.

Again in the early hours, three young women were ejected from Easterns for their abusive behaviour and language, but they had transport arranged, and were gladly bade farewell by the door staff.

One interesting aspect to the night was the almost complete absence of the police. One CCTV car stopped briefly at around 2am, but apart from him, we saw no other evidence of police presence at all. Most unusual. We were absolutely confident however, that if the need had arisen, the police would have been very prompt in arriving.

There were no problems either in any of the pubs or clubs, that we were aware of, or on the streets this night. We give thanks to God for a real sense of his peace, protection and provision, both in our walking time, and in our encounters with the door staff, and with those out on the streets.

Vita has come under new management, and will be undergoing a revamp both inside and out, and we were of the understanding that it would also be renamed. Watch this space!

A general report has been made that the pubs and clubs have been a good deal quieter since we have been a presence on the streets. This could also be the result of the economic recession, but we pray to the effect that this will continue (not the recession, but the peace!)

Easterns door staff notified us a few weeks back, to their dismay, that their number was being reduced from 5 to 3, and that it might be more difficult to maintain proper vigilance of their charges, but we pray that order will be maintained.

Frank was relieved of his cap, which some young man fled with, so if you see a navy base ball cap with a fish emblazoned on it, you may well know how the wearer came by it!

We thank you for your continued prayers, that they may be answered, and that we feel they are answered, in ways that often only Eternity will tell.

We are confident that through our presence on the streets, and the prayers of many people, we are having an untold influence on our town. We pray that not only will this continue, but that we may be able to do much more.

God bless you all.

This reflects what we do, not the hours of prayer and preparation each TP or Pray-er puts in either before or whilst on duty. It is important to recognise that even if some nights are quiet on the streets of Sudbury it is because Christians in the town have prayed for it. Others may say it is because of the weather and people now going to larger towns on weekend nights. Yes! These are a factor but, we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (KJV)

The success of Town Pastors, to date is down, to a small group of people who have dedicated themselves and give their time willingly to see TP's continue, It is sad to say, that it is the same people week in and week out, from just a few churches that are patrolling the street and praying either in the centre or at home. As Churches together we should all (Churches and there congregations) especially those from the 20-30

age group, step up to the mark and become part Town Pastors. Then we would soon be patrolling both nights of the weekend giving a greater opportunity to share God's Love with all those that we meet.

*Peter C Avery (Pastor)*  
(Chairman of Sudbury Town Pastors)

### **MiCS UPDATE FOR CTiS FORUM 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010**

Since our inception in spring last year we have seen a steady growth in numbers and times that we meet. Thank you to Tim Ayrton for the use of 72 on a monthly basis and to Peter Sebbage for his MiCS home fellowship again monthly.

#### **Projects undertaken:**

- Running the hot chestnut and punch BBQ at the Sudbury Christmas lights switch on and supporting Springlands Fellowship in their pre Christmas leaflet drop.
- A rather bizarre but fun packed social evening (yes, wives and girlfriends invited!) which included a cheese and wine supper and quiz.
- Thanks to the weather we enjoyed a splendid ramble that circumvented Stoke by Nayland on St Valentine's day.
- The most important item on our agenda was the commencement of the Dad 'n Kids' Brunch on February 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding these at 10.00 to 2.00 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month and so we need you all to help spread the word. Some hand outs are available for you to take away to give to individuals that you may know who could use this project. The scheme is aimed at meeting the needs initially of non-Christian dads who are estranged from their families but our first session showed the need to have Christian dads along as well. In fact I finished up playing 3 dimensional tiddly-winks with a 6 year old - and yes, Peter lost. One dad who joined us took his family to the Baptist church service last Sunday. We pray that he will also join the "WHO LET THE DADS OUT".

#### **Future plans:**

- A "Sizewell weekend of worship, and fellowship, visits to Rayleigh Baptist Church and Swaffham Free church for a "Christian Vision for Men" worship and fellowship.
- Anyone fancy breakfast on a Wednesday? We meet at 8.00a.m. at Suffolk's foremost eat and greet establishment Walley's at Acton.
- MiCS and the Dads club can only flourish through your prayers AND telling Christian men about us. We offer a very warm welcome and would especially like one or two of our ministers to pop in from time to time - we are always looking for new ideas and suggestions.

For further information please speak to Syd Platt, Peter Sebbage, or Martin Sparks

*Peter Sebbage 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2010*

### **REPORT FROM THE HEALING MINISTRY TEAM**

Following the work undertaken over the last couple of years and the fairly slow progress to date, the task group have considered it important to take a fresh approach with this important ministry and, as a result, made various changes. There is now a new task group which comprises: Rev'd Greg Webb, Dr Malcolm Offord, Sheelagh Ruse, Roger Pullan and Lynda Sebbage.

There have been two meetings so far this year where the group has discussed many issues and needs from which the following suggestions are being proposed:

**Kettle + Fish:** The ministry of prayer for healing will continue in the 'Quiet Area' and a rota is being arranged for one minister to be available during the K+F opening hours or at least, to be 'on call' -this minister will act as an extra resource to advise and support. Greg Webb is responsible for the rota. Helpful draft guidelines will be made available shortly, in addition, a list of local organisations that provide care and advice will be available as another resource.

**Training and Seminars:** We will be arranging a new training programme to commence in the autumn and it is hoped that we will join up with Hadleigh who are keen to be part of the plans we have for Sudbury. This is very encouraging as it means we will be able to share in so many ways, particularly with the training as Rev'd Martin Thrower and Rev'd Greg Webb are proposing to run the training programme. We also propose to run two seminars per year open to all, regardless of any specific interest in the ministry of healing. We will be inviting well-known and highly respected guest speakers to these events. Further details to be announced in due course.

*Lynda Sebbage*

## REPORT FROM FUTURE VISION



### Lifepath – an ongoing story you are part of...

Everyone enjoys a well told story. Young or old we listen enthralled as the tale unfolds and we are drawn into and we become part of the story. Here in Sudbury we have many stories to tell. Tales of heroism, self sacrifice, greed, anger; tales of yesterday and of today. We are all part of these stories because stories never really end.

One such story is that of Simon of Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury and builder to the glory of God. His is a story we need to tell and retell to all that will listen.

So, in June 2010, Scripture Union with Future Vision are going to tell that story to children from St Joseph's, St. Gregory's, Tudor and Woodhall Primary schools.

Over two days we will tell the story in word and song, with play and art, with prayer and worship. The best thing is that you can be part of it.

We will need people to pray, people to make things, people to look after tea and coffee, people to lead workshops, people to talk to the children.

This is a pilot project and we are working closely with the schools to provide an exciting educational experience.

Sound exciting?

Do you want to know more?

Then contact Scripture Unions schools worker Ian Copeman for more details.

Dates of event June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Venues St Gregory's church and Church of Our Lady and St. John.



## CHURCHES TOGETHER in Sudbury & District – Finances as at 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010

|                        |          |  |
|------------------------|----------|--|
| The balance in hand of | £7474.48 | (£3897.46 on Deposit) is accounted for as follows    |
| General Funds          | 943.64   | inc.£183.75 of CTree gift (£2691.18 on general Dept) |
| Future Vision(n:vi)    | 443.70   |  |
| Kettle & Fish          | 4674.75  | inc. £3000 Events Budget                             |
| Easter                 | 66.33    |  |
| Way Inn                | 1206.28  | £1206.28 on 30day notice Deposit                     |
| Prayer Breakfasts      | 1.30     |  |
| Men in Christ –Sud     | 138.48   |  |

Affiliation donations for the year Sept 09 to Aug 10 have been received from: St Gregorys, St Johns Methodist, Bures Baptist, Christ Church URC, Sudbury Baptist, All Saints, Springlands C.F, Cornard C.F., St Andrews Gt.C., HT L.Melford, Lavenham PCC, Quakers & Catholic Church.

Current suggested donations are: small organisations £60 (£23 for general funds & £37 for n:vision rent) and £85 for larger (£33 g.f. & £52 n:vision)- these are now overdue, if your Church/fellowship is not included above, please could you remind your Treasurer! Thank you.

General Fund. £82.70 was given at the December Forum and was passed on to Mulberry House. A new 10column Accounts Ledger has been purchased for £22.22 to replace the now inadequate 7column one which was bought in 1993.

Kettle & Fish at St Peters. The net refreshment etc sales income for the Christmas Tree Festival totalled £337.73 and the 6 openings December to February totalled £1133.08 (aver. £188.85). £40.55 was paid for catering supplies, £112.52 to Primo Coffee & Tea Co, £33.00 to St Johns Traidcraft for sugar sticks & teabags & £300 to Friends of St Peters.

Future Vision. The United Service offering totalled £319.79 and was passed on to them for which they expressed their thanks. £67.50 was paid to Woodhall School for the first half-term & £54.00 is due for the second half-term, but the hourly rate of £9.00 is due to be reviewed.

Easter. £18.64 was paid for 2 Printer Cartridges. £66.33 is in hand and there is the budgeted £1500 in the Kettle & Fish account.

Way Inn. All funds are on deposit.

Prayer Breakfasts gave £150 from their funds to Neil Holmes & family at Christmas.

Please approve the above payments.

United Services offerings have been for the financial support of: October – Edens Project, January – Future Vision (n:vision@springlands), May – Christian Aid & July – Live on Market Hill costs (if one is taken up).

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