

Churches Together in Sudbury & District

Minutes of the Forum held on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at St Gregory's Church Hall

Minutes taken by Judith Offord

Apologies: Apologies were received from Rev Sam White, Rev Nigel Ford, Janet Beswick, Steve Millard, Gill Phillips, Pat Ford, Martin Sparks, Margaret Tracey, David Lamming, Lynda Lunn and Malcolm Offord

- 1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Forum and thanked Rev Greg Webb for allowing the use of St Gregory's Church Hall for the Forum.
- 2 The opening worship was led by Rev Greg Webb
- 3 **Update on St Gregory's**
Rev Greg Webb gave an account of the history of St Gregory's and explained how large numbers of people visit the church and this gives an opportunity to show that although the church is extremely old, a living faith is practised there.
- 4 **Minutes of the Previous Forum**
The minutes of the Forum held on 4 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Report on Malcolm Offord

Judith Offord thanked everyone for all their prayers, calls, cards and concern and reported that just that afternoon, Malcolm's sight had just started to return, but it would be a few months before it returned completely. Peter Halden led prayers for Malcolm.

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. The situation regarding the Way Inn money was explained: its name was changed to the Dorcus Fund thus allowing money to be made available for those in need.

Thanks were expressed to Peter Heard for all the work he did as Treasurer.

6 Marriage Focus Group

Rev Brian Stenner reported that the MFG are questioning their role and reconsidering their future.

7 Oral Reports

a) Alive on Market Hill

- Peter Halden reported that a very full programme was planned with much variety with Godfrey Birtill leading the worship.
- Volunteers were needed to put up and clear away
- It was decided that donations for refreshments be allowed and all monies

- collected will go to the Tree House Appeal (Children's Hospice)
- An Alpha course would be arranged to follow-up enquires at AoMH

b) 18-30s

- Roger Pullan outlined the meetings that had already taken place with a group of younger adults
- CTiS funded the first meeting's meal and Nick Talbot has emerged as leader of this group
- The role of CTiS is to encourage and resource as necessary
- The group was meeting at the same time as the Forum

c) Healing Ministry Task Group

- The first of the occasional seminars to be organised by the HMTG is to take place on Thursday 1 July at St Greg's Church Hall. The speaker is Rev Dr John Parr who is an expert on mental health issues
- The second is on 19 March and the speaker is Jenifer Reece Lacombe
- An 8-session training programme, open all, but aimed at Kettle and Fish volunteers to start on 23rd September in conjunction with Rev Martin Thrower from Hadleigh

d) WATCH

Richard Tifford reported that

- The breaking news that Churchfield Road has just been confirmed as the site for the new Health Facility in Sudbury
- The project would not be reliant on Government funding for building
- Building tenders to be sought within the next couple of months
- Development expected within next 12 months
- Sian Surgery has been selected for re-location
- WATCH are still meeting every month

e) Kettle & Fish

- Judith explained how vulnerable Kettle and Fish is when the management team is incapacitated. This has highlighted an urgent need for deputies. Nigel and Val Ford have kindly taken on the running of particular Thursdays but are unable to act as deputies.
- K & F are providing refreshments for Alive on Market Hill and volunteers are needed to staff this

8 Written Reports

Written Reports had been circulated with the agenda.

9 Any Other Business

- Peter Halden announced that St Andrews had just appointed a new vicar
- The purchase of No 72 had been completed and the future of the building was now secure
- It was proposed and agreed with on objection, to give EnGroup the authority to process the necessary documentation and procedures to enable No 72 to be considered for affiliation to CTiS at the next Forum

Tim Ayrton advertised an African Children's Choir concert in Bury St Edmunds

10 Presentation on Sudbury becoming a Fairtrade Town

- Revd John Boardman started his presentation by explaining the difference between fair trade and free trade and the necessity to use of the Fairtrade logo
- Fairtrade not a Christian organisation in origins but one that many Christians support
- Over 7 million people get a better deal in life due to Fairtrade
- John explained in detail the goals Sudbury needed to meet to become a Fairtrade town
- The goal outlined are:
 - Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens).
 - A range of Fairtrade products are readily available in the area's retail outlets (shops, supermarkets, newsagents and petrol stations) and served in local catering outlets (cafés, restaurants, pubs).
 - Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.
 - A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.
- A steering group meeting for start the process of Sudbury becoming a Fairtrade town has been arranged for Thursday 23 September (apologies to Greg Webb for the clash of dates) at 7.30 pm at 23 Waldingfield Road.

The meeting was then thrown open for questions and discussion.

11 Closing Prayer

Peter Halden closed in prayer.

The next Open Forum of Churches Together in Sudbury & District, which will also be the AGM, is on Thursday 7th October, 7 for 7.30pm in the Catholic Church Hall. Please note that this is a change from the original date circulated of Wednesday 29th September.