

Minutes of the Forum and AGM held on October 2nd at Suffolk Road Church and hosted by the Springlands Christian Fellowship

The Forum was attended by 45 people representing 18 different churches

1. The Forum was welcomed by Keith Joiner of the Springlands Christian Fellowship who was hosting the Forum. He thanked Suffolk Road Church for allowing the use of their building. He then led the Forum in worship. He outlined the work being done by the Springlands Christian Fellowship under the guidance of their leadership team. He explained that although it was early days yet, a lot was being achieved. The main aim was to go out into Springlands, meet people and befriend them. Although it would be good to have their own building, they were blessed with the use of Woodhall Primary School. Activities currently being undertaken included gazebo outreach, prayer walking round the estate, prayer & fasting, litter picking, coffee mornings, Messy Church/Future Vision, carol service, distribution of hope packages at Hallowe'en, mince pies at Christmas and hot cross buns at Easter. The prayers of all churches for the work of the Fellowship were valued.

Peter Sebbage commended visiting the Fellowship as members of the same family.

2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Rev Greg Webb, Rev Cecil White, Rev John Boardman, Nigel Smith, Gay Layburn, Margaret Tracey, Andrew Stewart-Darling, Carol Smith and David Lamming.
3. A very warm **welcome** was extended by CTiS & D to Captain Emma Knights – Salvation Army, Sudbury. She introduced herself to the meeting and said she was looking forward to working with CTiS & D.
4. **Minutes of June Forum**
The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
5. **Treasurer's Report**
The accounts for the year 1st September 2012 to 31st August 2013 had been circulated before the meeting. There were no questions. The Chairman proposed that the report should be accepted – coupled with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer for all the work he does. The Forum unanimously accepted the report and approved the payments listed. It was noted that 17 churches had signed up and paid the affiliation donation for that year but that affiliation donations were now due for the current year.
6. **Annual Reports**
The Chairman introduced this item with a reading from Colossians 3 v 3-6. The annual reports had been circulated in advance of the Forum. The Chairman expressed thanks to everyone who had written reports and to Chris for collating them. The Forum agreed that the amount of work/outreach being undertaken by CTiS was fantastic. It is a witness to the way God works in Sudbury.

7. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman said that he had noted a continuing theme throughout the annual reports – the need for more volunteers. He also said it was important that as many people as possible signed up to receive the Churches' Information News so that they could be fully up-to-date with what is happening. To do so, send an email to ctis.news@gmail.com.

He thanked the officers for their support and work over the year.

He thanked reps for their participation and reminded the meeting how important it was that reps reported back to their churches information and requests.

Looking ahead there were three specific events. On October 12th there was an iChurch training. So far the minimum number had not been reached. It was hoped that more people would sign up for what promised to be an informative day.

On 16th November, Dave Bilbrough would be presenting "Tales of a Troubadour" – an evening of songs, stories and faith sponsored by World Vision. Churches were asked to publicise the evening. Tickets could be obtained from Tim Ayrton at No 72.

The Rotary Christmas Tree festival would be taking place from 4th to 8th December. It was suggested that as a witness, as many churches as possible should enter and decorate a tree. Judith Offord and Eleanor Ridge were planning to decorate a tree on behalf of CTIS on the theme "Reflecting God's love". They would be glad to have any offers of help.

8. Election of Officers

The following nominations had been received:-

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

It was proposed that these officers should be elected en bloc. The Forum agreed unanimously.

9. Ratification of Appointments

The following appointments were ratified by the Forum:-

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| Chairman of Kettle & Fish | Malcolm Offord |
| Manager of Kettle & Fish | Judith Offord |
| WATCH representative | Rev Richard Titford [this appointment to be confirmed] |
| Sudbury Town Partnership rep | Chris Proffitt |
| Friends of St Peters | Chris Proffitt |
| CTiSuffolk | Lynda Lunn and Chris Rowe |

It was noted that a volunteer was needed to take responsibility for Google Calendar. Mark Joiner had done excellent work on this but had had to stand down. Thanks were expressed to him. Churches were asked to look for someone who would take this post

10. Reports of Organisations' Vision for 2013/14

No 72 – Tim Ayrton said he and Joy had been in North Street for 6 years. He is a director of No 72 and a Counties evangelist. They work with people, children and adults on relationships, on bereavement issues and loss and in areas where help was requested. They have had the privilege of seeing a number of people come to God throughout the year. He described a number of cases where they had been able to do God's work. Opening on a Saturday had been a good move. He thanked CTiS & D for their support.

Explore – Andy Beard explained he was the local development officer for Explore – a national organisation. Their aim was to go into schools to run conferences to explain to Year 10 students the importance of relationships and to show that marriages can be long lasting and show commitment. Couples prepared to be questioned about their relationships by the students volunteer to attend the conferences. The first conference, held at Thomas Gainsborough School had been a success with a positive evaluation from teaching staff and pupils. It was hoped to go back to TGS again and to go to other schools further afield.

More volunteer couples were needed to assist in this work. Andy said that the profile of Explore needed to be raised in Sudbury. Advocates of marriage were needed. Possibly a system of advocacy could be built up.

Appreciation of his work was expressed to Andy

Future Vision – Ian Copeman explained the work that was being done by Future Vision. He said they were now in both senior schools and in Primary Schools. There were extra clubs in Primary schools; Ormiston Sudbury Academy would be spending a day considering prayer; a Christian chaplaincy [Rev C Ramsey, Ian Copeman and Liz Moulton from Bures Baptist] was being started at TGS at their request. This would serve staff, children and parents. They were exploring the possibility of a chaplaincy with one of the primary schools – helping with assemblies and talking to children. Additional lunch time clubs were being run. It would be good to extend work to Nurseries. Ian said more help was needed with all these activities – especially the club at Tudor Primary from 3.15 to 4.00. Additional funding was also needed – it would be good to employ someone to go into schools on a professional basis. He concluded that it was a privilege to represent Christ in the schools. Future Vision needed continuing prayer and support.

Friends of St Peters – Chris Proffitt explained that St Peter's was going through a stirring time at the moment. Dr Ronald Blythe would be the new president as from this month. A change of activities was resulting from pressure from the Churches Conservation Trust. Churches were being asked to stay open longer - even unattended. This can result in a number of problems. There are strong plans for the future including the development of facilities. A lot of funding will be required.

There will be an Open Day on October 28th with additional activities in the evening. Everyone is welcome to attend any part of that day.

I Spy Easter - Eleanor Ridge explained the format of I Spy Easter and said that Halstead Churches Together had shown interest in this outreach activity last Easter and had wanted to use it in Halstead. They had adapted the idea to their situation - operating out of a supermarket. Churches Together in England had also been interested and had agreed to put it on their website. Eleanor and Lynda Sebbage had prepared a package which would allow

anyone wanting to use the idea to take it off the website, at no charge.

Two Rivers Mission – Malcolm Offord explained that “Through Faith Missions” organise faith walks. They were experienced in work with schools, pub work, and door-to-door visiting and were planning to come to the Stour Valley from 10th to 18th May next year. An exploratory meeting had already been held and a number of churches had expressed an interest in being involved. Local churches needed to sign up if interested and to decide what help they needed. There would be a further meeting on 11th November at the Baptist Church. It was important, particularly in Sudbury town centre that there was co-ordination of activities. Arthur Dalglish had volunteered to do this for All Saints but would be glad to cover Sudbury town centre. He would be grateful for any help that could be offered. Tim Ayrton offered the use of No 72 to the leaders of the mission for their base. The meeting was reminded that this was Christian Aid Week. Consideration may need to be given to being flexible about Christian Aid Week.

Kettle and Fish - Malcolm Offord said K&F were looking forward to the proposed alterations within St Peters which would make life easier. He and Judith, although elected for a further year, were hoping to hand over the reins. Christine and Ken Steel had agreed to share the workload. Malcolm reminded the meeting that K&F is integral to the future of the work done by CTiS & D as it is the paymaster of CTiS&D. It was very important as a neutral place where people could meet friends, old and new, and chat and talk about Christian faith.

Ken Steel confirmed there would be no major changes – he and Christine were looking only to strengthen what is there already. He emphasised the need for more volunteers in every aspect of K&F. If there were sufficient people, it need not be a weekly commitment – just a few hours a month.

Thanks were expressed to all the leaders and helpers.

11. Future Events

The calendar showing future dates had been circulated

12. Any Other Business

- Peter Heard drew attention to the fact that information about CTiS activities seemed to have been dropped from local magazines. It was agreed EnGp would look at this.
- Eleanor paid tribute to the life of Gordon Marchant
- Churches were asked to take publicity material about “Tales of a Troubadour” for display in churches and anywhere else appropriate

13. Closing Prayer

Peter Halden closed the meeting in prayer