

Minutes of the Forum held on Thursday 12th December 2013 at Our Lady and St John the Evangelist Catholic Church.

24 people attended representing 12 different churches..

The meeting opened with a welcome from Malcolm Offord and a big thank you to Father Peter and the church for hosting the meeting.

1) Father Peter Brett then added his welcome on behalf of the church and led the meeting in prayer.

Father Peter then went on to explain a project that the church has just committed itself to. They will be supporting the Tapologo project in Rustenburg, South Africa. It is a very under resourced and poor area and is ravaged by Aids and HIV. When Bishop Kevin Dowling became Bishop of Rustenburg he was determined to tackle the situation. Since the start a hospice has been built, followed by an orphanage and then 11 clinics in shanty towns. All the buildings are cost effective because says love is what is needed not posh buildings. Many adults and children still die but many are saved by this medical care. There are now 120+ workers. Sudbury and Hadleigh parishes have committed themselves to support it over the next year. The first fund raising event raised £5000 and others are planned in the future.

2) Apologies had been received from C. Proffitt, C White, J and P Kohler, N.Smith, G. Phillips, C. Ramsey and E.Ridge, Peter and Lynda Sebbage.

A warm welcome was extended to Matthew Warnock and New Life Church in their recent affiliation with Churches Together in Sudbury and District. Matthew explained that New Life Church is an all age church and they are considering employing somebody in the near future. They are at the moment seeking Charity status and their vision is to work together to see God glorified in Cornard.

2) Minutes There was just one slight adjustment needed to the minutes. Item 10 Future Vision add Monday to the information about the need in Tudor Road school. The minutes were then accepted as correct.

4) Matters Arising Church donations - not all had been received as yet.

AOB Service details will be printed in Community News as from January.

The list of Christmas services has now been circulated and thanks were expressed to Pam and Ralph Chandler for all their help in it's production.

5) Treasurer's report A letter of thanks had been received for the gift sent to Eden's to enhance the low offering at the United Service.

Kettle and Fish had been open on the Lighting up evening and had taken £77.20 and they were again open throughout the Christmas tree festival and took £379.

A notice had been received from Woodhall School of an increase in rent charges for n:vision@springlands on Monday evenings. It will rise from £9.50 a week -£10.00.

A letter of thanks had been received from No 72 for the £500 gift they had received. So far they have been able to pay 2 x £15 for a top up of gas and electricity for a single mum with a family of 4 children and £20 for a lady to visit her very sick mother in Southend.

Malcolm Offord proposed that 10% of the money from the Tree Festival should go to the Rotary Club who organised it and that £100 should go to the Tapologo project in Rustenburg, South Africa.

6) Chairman's remarks Since October a number of events had taken place.

12th October 20 people attended the iChurch training. There were mixed views about the value of the course.

19th November 120 people gathered in St Peter's to hear Dave Bilbrough's testimony and his appeal on behalf of World Vision for child sponsors.

The Christian Muslim dialogue is progressing well, relationships are being built.

91 Christmas trees were in the Festival many of them stressing the Christmas story.

Agape Café were meeting to discuss the expansion of the work into day time. This will greatly increase the Christian influence in Great Cornard.

CTiS&D Website Malcolm praised the website and gave thanks to Malcolm Snow and his team for the excellent site which is very colourful, up to date and user friendly.

Malcolm Snow reported that Tony Callender is the person who does all the week by week work and Stephen Mudd keeps the Google Calendar up to date. Thanks go especially to them.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is now finalised

Explore has again visited Thomas Gainsborough school in the last two weeks. It was a good session with 82% of pupils and staff rating it as good or very good.

They need more than one school to work with and Malcolm asked anyone who had any connection with any other senior school in the area to promote Explore to the staff there. This will use the package more effectively.

At the next Forum on Thursday 13th March 2014 Simon Snell from Christian Aid will be the speaker.

7) Future Events

There are some changes to the list of Future Dates sent out before the Forum

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Day 3 - St Johns

Day 4 - St Andrew's.

Sunday 11th May will be a change of venue (tba)

The last Kettle and Fish of 2013 will be on Thursday 19th December.

Sunday 28th November 2014 should actually read 30th November

8) Overseas Mission news

Reports were received from

a) Home of Hope in Lebanon www.homeofhopelebanon.com

b) Frontline Bulgaria www.frontlinepartnership.org is the website for Frontline Partnerships, based in Brentwood, and has a link to Frontline Bulgaria.

c) Romania Care www.romaniacare.com

David Ford reported that over 9000 shoe boxes were on their way to Belarus from this region. He commented that what linked all the projects mentioned during the meeting was THE LOVE OF GOD.

The meeting closed with saying the Grace to each other.