

Minutes of the CTIS& District Forum held on Thursday March 13th 2014

37 people were present representing 13 churches

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| 1 | Opening worship | |
| | Betty Scrivener welcomed the Forum to the Meeting House and Sheelagh Ruse gave some opening thoughts. | |
| 2 | Apologies | |
| | Apologies had been received from Peter and Lynda Sebbage, Ann Smythe, Rev Chris Ramsey, Eleanor Ridge and Roger Pullan. | |
| 3 | Welcomes | |
| | There were no new clergy to welcome at this Forum, but the Chair commented how encouraging it was to see so many clergy, retired and serving, at the Forum. Richard Blyth, the rep. from Alpheton and Shimpling churches was welcomed to his first meeting. | |
| 4 | Minutes of previous Forum | |
| | The minutes of the Forum held on 12 th December 2013 were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman. | |
| 6 | Matters Arising | |
| | Item 4 - It had been agreed that times of church services would be published in the Sudbury Community News. The Chairman had tried to get this done but the editors had not responded despite their earlier agreement to arrange this. The Chairman would try again. | The Chairman would try again to get services published in the Community News. |
| 7 | Treasurer's Report | |
| | The Treasurer's Report had been circulated. The Treasurer said that he had now received the affiliation donation from Lavenham Church. It was noted that there was £964.90 in the Dorcas Fund. The meeting was reminded that this fund was available for cases of need. Applications for grants from this fund could be made by clergy. No 72 had made use of the fund. Thanks were expressed to the Treasurer for all the work he did to keep the finances in order. | |
| 5 | Christian Aid | |
| | Simon Snell, Co-ordinator for Suffolk, introduced himself, described his faith journey and the work he had been doing. He gave a presentation on "Faith in Action", including short videos. Points made during the presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Aid has been at the foundation of many movements eg VSO, Fairtrade and Tax Justice • Christian Aid belongs to the churches • All work involves Christian Aid working closely with partnerships and other bodies, including Community Partnerships • One area of work is humanitarian response • Christian Aid was also working in the field of Advocacy and Campaigning. "Trace the Tax" was a campaign which had been held. | |

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| | <p>The aim was to speak on behalf of people whose voices are not heard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice” – Nelson Mandela • Christian Aid week is a good opportunity to engage with neighbours • Christian Aid house to house collections raise 75% of Christian Aid income • There were many different [and fun] ways of raising money • There are opportunities for volunteers to act as local lobbyists. Local lobbyists help take CA messages of justice to the heart of government. It is a powerful way of changing and influencing laws and policies. • Prayer for CA’s work is essential • “He can move mountains” – Simon Snell’s final reflection <p>A question session followed and questions covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether house to house collections were threatened by the reducing number of collectors • How much money gets through to the countries • How transparent the accounts were • The justification for high salaries for Chief Executives • Whether there would be any value in similar charities working together <p>Mr Snell answered all these questions.</p> <p>He was thanked for his presentation.</p> <p>In case anyone wanted further information, he left his details:</p> <p>Email ssnell@christian-aid.org Tel 01603 620051</p> <p>Malcolm Snow thanked all those who were already involved as collectors and appealed for anyone else who could become collectors. Julia Perkins said that collectors were particularly needed in Glemsford.</p> | |
| 8 | Reports | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPCU – it had been a very successful week with increased attendance at all the weekday meetings • WWDP – this had also been a successful event • The Agape Café now comes under the auspices of CTiS&D. They are now meeting on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings in Great Cornard to allow parents with school age children to drop in and chat • K&F still needs more volunteers with all aspects of their work. Listeners are particularly required. If anyone can help, could they let Ken or Christine or Malcolm or Judith know • From EnGp – there are a number of events going on and planned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lent courses are continuing with several being open to anyone who wishes to attend - there will be a Walk of Witness on Easter Saturday starting at the Croft and finishing at St Peter’s. This will be preceded by a Prayer Breakfast at Long Melford URC | |

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| | <p>- 2 Rivers Mission is taking place at the beginning of May. Several people had attended training evenings. Springlands will be having a fete on May 5th and help is urgently needed to man this event. Please speak to Chris Rowe if you can help – 01787 370844 or c.m.rowe@talktalk.net</p> <p>- Jeff Lucas is coming to Sudbury on the evening of Tuesday 25th November</p> <p>Rev Malcolm Hill was asked to speak about the Peace Initiative. He emphasised the need for peace and spoke about the Syrian situation and the tragedy of children who have lost so much. He said that 140,000 people have been killed in 3 years.</p> <p>He said that some people had come together firstly to diagnose the cause of the trouble and secondly to try and find a cure. He emphasised that Jesus has a cure – He made friends of his enemies.</p> <p>He explained that the initiative was trying to form all people into peacemakers. To do this, 3 events were planned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Sunday 18th May there would be a service/rally at St Peter’s when causes of war would be looked at. People were asked to support this event and invite friends and neighbours. • They had been invited by the Principal of Ormiston Sudbury Academy to speak to the pupils about peace. • They hoped to speak to representatives of political parties to ask if there could be a peaceful solution to some of the problems. This initiative would be undertaken jointly with the Muslims. <p>It was acknowledged there would be a lot of work needed for this initiative to make progress.</p> | <p>Contact Chris Rowe if you can help on May 5th</p> |
| 9 | The meeting closed with prayer. | |