

Minutes of the CTiS& District Forum held on Wednesday December 10th 2014 at All Saints' Church Hall

35 people from 16 organisations attended the forum. This includes 4 people from BGEA.

1 **Welcome and Opening worship**

Rev John Clark welcomed the Forum on behalf of the Baptist Church and led the Forum in opening worship.

He then told the Forum about the current situation at the Baptist Church. He said they were still without a minister but they were busy with their outreach activities which included Messy Church, café church, SNAP – which works with disabled children and their families, Meeting Point, 5 house groups together with services both morning and evening on a Sunday. He said they had completed phase 1 of their building programme. They were holding an 8 week session of training for pastoral care and there would also be training for those involved in worship. He thanked all those who had been supporting the church with prayer.

The Chairman then welcomed Rev Stephen Morley to his first Forum. He was asked to say a little about his work at Bures. He said

- He had been Vicar of Bures with Assington and Little Cornard since July
- This was his second career – his first had been as a lawyer
- He came from Somerset
- His ministry thus far had been in a multi parish situation
- Bures was blessed by a big ministry team
- There was a small youth group
- They were working with 2 or 3 different styles of worship
- They had just started a Sunday evening group for late teens and early twenties
- They have a very close relationship with Bures Primary School
- He was hoping to work closely with Bures Baptist church on a number of activities.

The Chairman thanked him for his contribution and said he would be most welcome to CTiS and District.

2 **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Gay Layburn, Rev Simon Gill, Chris Proffitt, and Chris Rowe. [It was noted that Chris' move was not now likely to take place until the new year. Chris was not too well]

3 **Minutes of previous Forum**

The minutes of the Forum held on 2nd October 2014 were accepted as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

5 **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report of the finances as at 5th December 2014 had been circulated. There were no questions. The Treasurer said that two more affiliation donations had been received. The Treasurer was thanked for all the work he did maintaining the CTiS & D financial records. The Forum approved the treasurer's report.

6 **Chairman's Business**

Jeff Lucas

Peter Halden said that about 250 people had attended. The evening had gone well although there had been initial problems with the radio mics.

He had tentatively invited Jeff Lucas back for Pentecost Praise in 2016.

Explore

Explore had taken place at Thomas Gainsborough last week. There had been three sessions with three groups of students aged 14-16 years old examining relationships. Ken and Chris Steel had volunteered to be one of the couples who would be questioned by the students. Ken said it was a really worthwhile occasion and strongly recommended that other couples volunteered to be questioned.

The Chairman said that it was important to keep this initiative going.

Christmas Tree Festival

The Festival was running from 10th to 14th December. Kettle and Fish were there and it was a good opportunity to explain what Kettle and Fish was. It was an event not to be missed.

Christmas Services

Malcolm and Judith had prepared a list of all local services. Laminated copies were available to be taken to hotels etc.

Sudbury on Show

Sudbury on Show would be taking place on March 7th next year. CTiS & D will have a stall. Churches were encouraged to have their own stall. Ken Steel asked whether the CTiS badges would be available for individual churches to indicate that they were members of CTiS&D. The Chairman said that this would be arranged.

Lent courses

It seemed unlikely that there would be a joint CTiS course, but several churches planned to study the same material.

WPCU

Venues and details have all been arranged, starting with the united service on 18th January at Suffolk Road Church.

WATCH

Rev Richard Tifford had sent the following report:-

As part of SUDBURY WATCH!, I have now visited the new SUDBURY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE. I think it is impressive, is worthy of our town and its district and will be of huge benefit to all residents.

I urge as many people as possible to view it on the Open Day - Saturday 20th December between 1000 – 1400.

The centre is planned to open for business on Monday 12th January 2015: all departments - including Siam Surgery. There will doubtless be teething troubles when so much changes on one day but these should be short-lived. Local buses from the town centre (and we hope soon Great Cornard) will call there. May I ask all local ministers to draw this to their congregations attention?

Presentation to Malcolm and Judith Offord

Eleanor Ridge said that Kettle and Fish had been running for 10 years. Malcolm and Judith had been at the helm for 7 years. She made a presentation to the Offords for their energy and commitment over the years.

I Spy Easter

7 Lynda Sebbage said that I Spy Easter was back by popular demand – it would be held on Easter Saturday April 4th. A meeting will be held at 22 Baker's Court at 10.00 am on 13th January for everyone who would be prepared to help with the organisation.

Peter Sebbage asked if ministers' approval was required in order for I Spy Easter to go

ahead. It was agreed that it was not. Peter Sebbage therefore asked why united Lent courses could not go ahead without ministers' approval. The Forum indicated approval of this point of view

8 **Town Pastors Report**

John Clark said that town pastors were going out every Saturday night. He said there was still a shortage of town pastors, especially those in the younger age spectrum. Photos of town pastors were being taken so that the prayer teams would know for whom they were praying. He explained that the prayer team operated in two parts – a team operated from 9.30 pm to 3.30 am at the Salvation Army. In addition, pray-ers were praying from their homes. More pray-ers were needed as some time slots were not covered at the moment. John said that people were beginning to recognise town pastors and come up to them to talk and ask questions. He said it was a very useful mission. The police really do appreciate the work of the town pastors.

Nigel Smith had recently become a town pastor because he felt it was a really worthwhile thing to do. More town pastors are needed. Other points made were:-

- Waitrose are supporting town pastors through their green disc scheme. Everyone was encouraged to support this initiative.
- Town pastors were having a guest table at Kettle and Fish on December 18th
- The Chairman emphasised the importance of the work being done by town pastors.

9 **Any Other Business**

- Ken Steel reminded those involved that it was not possible to set up Kettle and Fish on Wednesday 17th December as there was a concert in the church. Helpers were asked to come early on the Thursday morning
- David Ford reported that about 10,000 shoe boxes had been packed and dispatched. 9323 were for children, 284 were for grandmas and 41 for grandpas. 9648 had been sent to Belarus and the remainder would be sent to Ipswich so they could be sent to their destination – possibly Africa. David added it was a joy to have the school children at the warehouse.

10 **The Cross**

The Regional Co-ordinator of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Kim Dopley, introduced his colleagues and spoke about the DVD which was intended to be a tool to share the gospel in different ways – 1:1, or in groups or the whole church. The aim is for people to hear the gospel. The DVD has been shown throughout America and has now been brought to the UK

The DVD was shown and the Forum invited at the end to ask questions. The following questions were asked:-

Q Is a special licence needed to show it?

A No

Q Is there any promotional material?

A Yes, this will come to you if you sign up tonight. Resources are also available on the website - <http://myhopewithbillygraham.org.uk/>

Q Is the DVD available in any Eastern Bloc languages

A It was in several languages which are listed in the introduction

- 11 The Chairman thanked the speaker and said he hoped that the DVD could be used effectively in our churches.

The meeting closed with a prayer.