

After leading the opening thought at last week's Prayer Breakfast, I was asked to circulate it to those present. In the light of Malcolm Offord's concern that so few younger people are getting involved in CTiS&D projects, and Ken Steel's disheartening encounters with folk outside the church, I recalled that around 2001/2 when Roger Pullan and I were Trustees of Eden's Project, he called the local ministers and youth leaders together to discuss the young people's work in town in general and asked me to open the meeting with a relevant thought. I had recently read a book by Bishop Cranford of Rochester "The Emerging Generation" and had been really struck by his translation of Ephesians 3:16-19 and felt it very apt – both then and now.

The NIVersion which we know so well says: "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love may have power together with all the saints to grasp how wide, and long, and high, and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God"

But Bishop Cranford paraphrased it: "I pray, before God, that each one of us might have a **Baptism of the Imagination** that being saints from many churches we may know **new frontiers, wider limits, deeper knowledge, higher aspirations** and experience for ourselves the lengths God's love goes to in Jesus."

This led me to list the churches involved in CTiS&D and then the projects that have taken shape during the last 14 years in Sudbury (I am bound to have forgotten some!) As we looked at the list and also remembered all the exciting events that various churches are creating, we realised that God has Baptised our Imaginations in spectacular ways. Sunday School as it used to be may be dying out, but many other new and innovative ideas are taking shape in children's ministry alone.

**Local Church initiatives**  
2014 Two Rivers Mission  
Agape Cafe  
Causeway  
Chaplain to Police  
Chaplain to Football Club  
Christian Aid  
Christmas Hampers  
Connect (Long Melford)  
CTiS & D projects  
Dorcas  
Easter March of Witness  
Lent initiatives  
Easter Story x 3  
Eden's Project

**Enabling Group**  
**Education & Students Groups**  
Explore (Marriage)  
Fairtrade  
Fellowship Football  
Fellowship Snooker  
Soul Cafe  
Future Vision  
Holiday at Home  
Home of Hope  
I-Spy Easter  
JagFest  
Kettle & Fish  
Marriage Focus  
Men in Christ

**Messy Church x 5**  
**Moslem Dialogue**  
**No. 72 North Street**  
**Open the Book**  
**Party in the Park**  
**Praise in Park/on the Hill**  
**Prayer Breakfasts**  
**Samaritan's Purse**  
**School Chaplaincy**  
**SNAPS**  
**Storehouse Foodbank**  
**Sudbury on Show**  
**Town Pastors**  
**WATCH (Hospital)**  
**Who let the Dads out?**

We have seen **New Frontiers** breached.

We have stretched our tent pegs to **Wider Limits**.

People who at first resisted change have discovered **Deeper Knowledge**.

And we surely all have **Higher Aspirations** as a result

**SO LORD PLEASE BAPTISE: OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND OUR IMAGINATIONS**

**Eleanor Ridge – July 2015**