



## Churches Together in Sudbury & District

Minutes of the Forum held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 at Little Cornard Parish Church

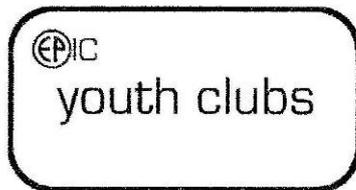
The Forum was attended by 36 people from 17 churches.

1	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Worship</b></p> <p>Rev Steven Morley welcomed the Forum to Little Cornard Parish Church. Robert Mackman explained that there had been a church on this site for the best part of 1000 years. The current church is grade 1 listed. All Saints is part of a three-church Benefice, joined with St Marys, Bures and St Edmund, Assington. The tower is 14<sup>th</sup> century. The East window is a Clutterbuck window. The font is of national importance – the four shields on the base are the shields of four signatories of the Magna Carta. There are 5 bells, the oldest of which was cast in 1399. The Church currently has a project to get all the bells ringing by Armistice Day 2018.</p> <p>He said that Little Cornard has a population, widely spread, of about 300 people. The church has a congregation of 20-30.</p> <p>Rev Steven Morley then led worship based on Psalm 104 with a theme of the greatness of God and his creation.</p>
4	<p><b>Eden's proposed internship programme</b></p> <p>Stuart Ayling explained that Eden's Project ran youth clubs in Glemsford, Great Cornard and Sudbury with the aim of getting young people interested in achieving their potential. They get alongside and support young people.</p> <p>In the past they have had help from schemes such as Youth Work Apprenticeship and My Year Out students. They were now considering setting up an internship. Details of their vision and of how this might work, and the sort of person they were looking for are contained in the details at the end of these minutes. Stuart said that he hoped churches would be prepared to be involved in this project. He said Eden's was currently running a music project - Noise Solution - which is a social enterprise using music and technology with people who are disengaged from the mainstream through problems such as mental health, addiction, offending, challenging behaviour or chaotic lifestyle. He felt that Sudbury offered an intern a lot of possibilities for linking with other organisations such as Fellowship Football etc. It would also be an opportunity for the intern to achieve a qualification.</p> <p>The costs of the project were outlined which could be between 3½ and 6 thousand pounds a year. The more help which could be offered with hospitality by local families, the less the cost would be. In answer to a question he said that the intern could come from anywhere but that it was important to get the right person.</p> <p>The Chairman explained to the Forum that the profits from Kettle and Fish had built up. He said that, subject to Forum's agreement, CTIS&amp;D could support the project up to a cost of £8,000. By a show of hands, the majority of those present indicated that they agreed the project should be supported by CTIS&amp; D.</p> <p>Stuart said that Eden's would try and get funding from bigger national bodies for a second year.</p>
2	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Peter Heard, Gay Layburn, Peter and Lynda Sebbage,</p>

	Ken and Christine Steel and Chris Proffitt.
3	<p><b>Welcome to new ministers</b></p> <p>There were no new ministers to be welcomed.</p>
5	<p><b>Minutes of the Forum held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved by the Forum and signed by the Chairman</p>
6	<p><b>Matters arising from those minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rev Ruth Ridge said that the Easter Egg Hunt had been enjoyable, but would have been better if more children had taken part. It was noted that it had not taken place in the school holidays and this could have been a major reason. If the event is run again, this would be taken into account.</li> <li>• Peter Halden said that Easter Praise had gone well – with two excellent speakers</li> <li>• Malcolm Offord drew attention to the “Time to Pray” scheme which now produced a monthly leaflet of local points about which to pray. He hoped all churches were using this.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>The treasurer’s report showing the finances as at 11<sup>th</sup> June had already been circulated. There were no questions arising from the report. The Forum formally adopted the report.</p>
8	<p><b>Chairman’s Business</b></p> <p>The Chairman raised the following matters:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTiS&amp;D had agreed to make a donation to the Sudbury Fire Trust if required. The Chairman of the Trust had advised that no further donations were required and that all funds raised had now been disbursed and the Trust was being wound up.</li> <li>• On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, there would be a Sudbury Open Gardens Day from 10.30 – 5.30 to raise funds for the Hospice</li> <li>• The Dorcas Fund was maintained by tithing the profits from Kettle and Fish. The fund was intended to assist anyone in particular need who was recommended by a minister. Ministers were asked if they knew of anyone needing some financial help to get in touch with him</li> <li>• The next Forum would include the AGM at which elections for officers would take place</li> <li>• Efforts had been made to find a Press Officer and it was hoped that one was now in place. This could help CTiS&amp;D and individual churches’ publicity.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Storehouse Update</b></p> <p>Andrew and Emma Stewart-Darling circulated a note [attached to these minutes] explaining the need to “prune” the way the Storehouse Foodbank operated. Additional points made by Emma included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need is growing – there are now even more homeless in Sudbury – who come from all walks of life</li> <li>• The warehouse they had been using was going to be lost</li> <li>• The warehouse manager was stepping down</li> <li>• The team leader also felt it was time to step down</li> <li>• There was more food coming in than was being given out despite the need</li> <li>• The need to rationalise was paramount and this has been done and the operation is more efficient</li> <li>• The cost of running Storehouse is around £11,000 per year which is currently being met by the Vineyard Church. Financial assistance would therefore be most</li> </ul>

	<p>welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storehouse is supporting local families and individuals in our community who are in crisis. The support helps to give those it helps a sense of dignity</li> <li>• It was important to get the flow right</li> <li>• Churches were encouraged to give their harvest gifts to Storehouse</li> <li>• Collection points are still open at Waitrose and at 3 Co-ops and the Ipswich Building Society</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman thanked Mr and Mrs Stewart-Darling for the clarification – and for the work that they were doing.</p>
10	<p><b>A Rocha</b></p> <p>The speaker, Mr David Chandler, introduced himself to the meeting as a trustee of A Rocha UK - a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. He explained that “A Rocha” was Portuguese for “The Rock”. A Rocha UK started in the UK in the early 2000’s. It was partly about research, partly about education and also grass roots conservation.</p> <p>Mr Chandler described Wolf Fields an A Rocha site in West London. At one time it was used as a brick works. Since then the site had fallen into disrepair and become a neglected wasteland used only for rubbish dumping, drug taking and substance abuse. A Rocha UK acquired the site in 2012. Work started in 2013. Initially, the site was cleared of 54 tonnes of rubbish – including 500 glass bottles, 12 mattresses, furniture, animal remains and asbestos. With the rubbish taken away, new paths were laid to improve access across the site.</p> <p>Nest boxes and a bird feeding station were some of the first improvements to attract wildlife. These additions have already had a noticeable impact on the site’s species diversity.</p> <p>He then outlined the Eco Church Scheme – an award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God’s earth.</p> <p>[Further information on the scheme can be obtained from <a href="http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/">http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/</a> ]</p> <p>He then took the Forum through the theology of why churches should care for the world – not just because it is beautiful, or because it produces our food. He drew attention to Psalm 24 v1 “<i>The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it</i>” and said that it is God’s world, though we treat it as if it is ours. He took several references from the Bible as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genesis 1: 28 – to have dominion over the earth and everything in it does not give us licence to exploit it</li> <li>• Genesis 2:15 – man is to work for the earth and take care of it</li> <li>• John 3:16 – “for God so loved the world“ – not just the people – the word used for “world” is “cosmos”</li> <li>• Noah’s ark story – God saved more creatures than humans – He cares for more than people</li> <li>• Genesis 9:8-10 – God’s covenant was made with Noah and his descendants and “with every living creature on earth”</li> <li>• Colossians 1:15-20 – all things were created in Jesus and through Jesus</li> </ul> <p>We were asked to look after the whole of creation.</p>

	<p>Mr Chandler then showed slides of the A Rocha site at Foxearth. He explained that the site had had no management for 6 years but that now it had been purchased by A Rocha, Mark Prina had been appointed as Reserve Manager and work on the site had started. The site is possibly the only site in the world to be managed for dragonflies. There are at least 20 species at Foxearth. Looking to the future he said that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was hoped to manage the site as an exemplar site for dragonflies and demoiselles</li> <li>• It would be used as a site for research</li> <li>• It would be used for education</li> <li>• It could be used as a place for retreat</li> <li>• Work to obtain permission to create a car parking area was being continued</li> <li>• There would also need to be a building on the site</li> <li>• Involvement of local people would be most welcome. Although a lot of the work needed at the moment was physical, some administrative help would be needed – particularly in the near future in preparation for the official opening which would be taking place over the weekend 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• It was hoped that local churches would become involved</li> </ul> <p>Mr Chandler concluded by asking people to think about what they could do in respect of conservation – however small. He encouraged churches to get involved with the Eco Church Scheme.</p> <p>In answer to a question about whether there could be pollution of the site from Philips Avent, Mr Chandler said that the run-off from farmland is likely to be more of a problem. He was asked whether it was planned to work with schools and he confirmed that it was.</p> <p>Mr Chandler was thanked for his presentation.</p>
11	<p><b>News and Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthwatch Suffolk will have a stand at Kettle and Fish on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>• There will be a Kettle and Fish team meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Help is still needed at Kettle and Fish particularly with setting up and putting away.</li> <li>• The licencing and installation of Revd Canon Cheryl Collins will take place at St Gregory's at 7.30 pm on 5<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>• Glemsford Parish Church will be holding a "Faith and Fashion" evening on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June . Tickets cost £6.00. The event is to raise money for St Mary's</li> <li>• The Vineyard Church would be hosting a week of 24/7 of prayer from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Everyone was welcome to sign up for one hour in the prayer room. See <a href="http://www.stourvalleyvineyard.org/">http://www.stourvalleyvineyard.org/</a> for details. It would also be possible to subscribe to get your <i>Daily Devotion</i> email every day during the 24-7 Week of Prayer.</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>Your Views</b></p> <p>There were no views expressed.</p>
13	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Little Cornard was thanked for their generous hospitality to the Forum.</p>
14	<p>The Forum closed with the Grace.</p>



#### EPic Internship

EPic Internship is a ministry training experience for Christians who want to take a year out to explore and develop their gifts in a range of settings. The applicant will want to particularly develop skills in youthwork but there will also be opportunities if you would like them, to develop skills in Church ministry, music and football. EPic Internship is based at a registered youthwork charity called Eden's Project, located in Sudbury, Suffolk please see [www.edensproject.co.uk](http://www.edensproject.co.uk) which runs its youthwork under the branding of EPic Youth Clubs please see [www.epicyouthclubs.co.uk](http://www.epicyouthclubs.co.uk) for more information.

#### Typical week

- Youth clubs – learn and practice youthwork skills at the youth clubs we run in 3 different locations.
- Music - help run our fully equipped music practice & recording room.
- Football – help support our 2 football projects.
- Weekly prayer meeting which focuses on the youthwork ministry.
- Weekly discipleship studies - led by Eden's staff and local ministers.
- Weekly personal mentoring – to support you and help you gain the most from your time.
- Office admin - gain experience in a wide range of office based skills that are a vital part of keeping a Christian ministry running.
- Personal study – to develop your knowledge and ministry effectiveness.
- Church ministry – you will be placed in a local church and have ministry opportunities and wider support during your internship.
- A typical week will be 30 hours usually spread approximately 6 hours per day over 5 days.

#### Occasional events

- Special events like Eden's end of term 'Scoffs' youthwork outreach dinner nights and the termly Soul Café outreach nights run by Fellowship Football.
- Retreat – a time away to get closer to God and spiritually recharge.
- Promotion of the charity at local events e.g. Party In The Park.
- Holiday - you will get a minimum of 1 week at Christmas, 1 week at Easter and a further 1 week during your internship.

#### Schedule

EPic Internship usually commences in early September and will finish in late July (exact start dates can be negotiated at interview to suit your needs and we can consider shortening the length of the course if you need this to fit in with your future plans).

#### Cost

The main cost of the internship is kindly being sponsored by Churches Together in Sudbury & District, this covers your accommodation, food and a weekly pocket money allowance. However, you will need to cover any other expenses you may have e.g. travel, your holiday and free time, any additional external training course you might like to undertake during your internship.

#### Application

To apply for the EPic Internship request a copy of our application form by emailing [info@edensproject.co.uk](mailto:info@edensproject.co.uk) there is no application deadline as each application is considered as soon as it arrives so it is in your best interests to apply asap.

For any further information please contact: Stuart Ayling, Eden's Project, 45 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2EU. Telephone 01787 375247.

Churches Together AGM, 22 June 2016

Storehouse Foodbank began in Sept 2007. In our first year we fed, on average, 7 people each month. The table below shows how the number of people fed has increased year on year.

Monthly Averages	2008	2014	2015	2016 (Jan-May)
Total av number of bags given pm	7	68	110	209
Total av number of people fed pm	7	68	93	113
Equivalent av bags (donations) received pm			163	184
Monthly av percentage of food used			53%	109%

In 2012 we actively sort help from the community in providing more food donations to meet the growing need. Over the next 3 years our Donation Points grew to around 40 through churches, businesses and local organisations where people could drop off food.

There were several effects from this increase in community partnerships and the growth which ensued. Firstly, we welcomed the much-needed food. Secondly, we needed more space to process and sort these donations. Thirdly, we needed more volunteers to help with sorting, packing and delivering the food. Fourthly, the financial cost of Storehouse increased as the compassion ministry expanded.

However, we realised that the work needed to be 'pruned' in order for us to produce a stronger and more robust foodbank. Maintaining so many donation points was a huge undertaking. In the same period, Waitrose opened a permanent Donation Point which hugely increased the volume of food coming in. On top of this, we knew that we were losing our warehouse space and, even after a public appeal, did not have the space available to process such a volume of food. After a detailed assessment we concluded that we had far more food coming in than we could feasibly give away, or manage, knowing that we were losing our storage space. Our solution was, as you know, to reduce the amount of Donation Points. We have also now moved all the food stocks into a smaller room at our Christopher Centre offices, which has enabled us to optimise our volunteers' time, all working under one roof. However, we now have to pay for this storage space.

The cost to Vineyard of running Storehouse is around £11,000 pa. That equates to £42.30 per day. This is a maintenance cost, the majority of which covers facilities and administration overheads. In order to invest in Storehouse, we need further funding still.

We appreciate that you will already be supporting other local causes, but would you prayerfully consider giving either a small amount each month, or a single gift? We have worked out that:

£12.50 pm keeps our emergency phone line open      £20 pm covers the rent for one Drop-in each month  
£40 pm pays for food bags and materials              £340 pm pays for our stock room rent

Please make cheques payable to Stour Valley Vineyard Church (earmarked for Storehouse) or by BACS to:  
Account name: Stour Valley Vineyard      Account number: 00015790      Sort Code: 40-52-40

Thank you for supporting Storehouse, but, more than that, for supporting local families and individuals in our community who are in crisis.

Every blessing

*Andrew & Emma*

Andrew and Emma Stewart-Darling  
Pastors, Stour Valley Vineyard