



Report from Malcolm Offord, Chairman of Churches Together in Sudbury & District

In 2012 I had the honour of being elected Chairman of CTiS&D, in the wake of such notable predecessors as Peter Halden and before him Roger Pullan. In 2016 I shall have served four years in this role and will be laying down the baton for my successor. Impossible to review in detail four years of an organisation which is as active and varied as CTiS&D. The number of churches embraced by CTiS&D has grown in that time, in particular adding the Bures benefice to our ranks. The number of churches belonging to CTiS&D now stands at 12 in Sudbury and 18 in the local area, making a grand total of 30! Ministers have come and gone in that time, the most tragic loss being that of our beloved Greg Webb just over a year ago. It has been a joy to welcome new ministers to the town, three in the last twelve months or so (Cheryl Collins St Greg's, Bryn Rickard URC and Mark Ulanowski Sudbury Baptist Church). We have partied in the Park, been live on Market Hill, performed in the streets with *The Easter Story* and *I Spy Easter*, played football and snooker with the 'Fellowships', continued with the amazing ministry of *Kettle & Fish*, Thursday by Thursday, continued supporting the Town Pastors, Future Vision and *Open the Book and Storehouse*. Attending Prayer Breakfasts has been a particular inspiration for me – what a way to begin the weekend! It's been good to witness developments at Eden's, as Stuart and his team have moved out into Great Cornard and Glemsford and are looking to appoint an intern to help Stuart in his work and to learn about Christian leadership. So much to report and rejoice in. So much to have had the privilege of being part of.

All of this activity is an attempt to mobilise the Christian folk of Sudbury and district to be proactive about their faith. One of the most powerful ways of achieving that is to get to know each other, to work and worship together, to share ourselves, our stories, our Christian insights and experiences across the churches. And that's what we do. Sudbury and district needs to hear and see the gospel message, that Jesus came to our world to make possible reconciliation between God and us. The kingdom of God is at hand, and it is up to us Christian folk to make sure its boundaries extend more and more firmly into our area.

God bless you all – and please support the new chairman in his new role.

Malcolm Offord

PS I cannot end this report without saying a big thank-you to the members of the Enabling Group who have contributed so much time, thought, energy and prayer to the endeavours of CTiS&D. It's invidious to pick out individuals, but I would just like to give a special thanks to Peter Heard our Treasurer, Gill Philips our Minutes Secretary (and much more), Ruth Ridge our incredible new Secretary, who has so many talents it makes my toes curl, and to Malcolm Snow and Tony Callender who keeps the Church News and website up-to-date.