



# Churches Together in Sudbury & District

## Minutes of the Forum and AGM of Churches Together in Sudbury & District held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at All Saints' Church Hall, Sudbury

The Forum was attended by 37 people from 17 Churches

1	<p><b>Worship, Prayer</b> Rev Simon Gill opened the Forum with worship. In considering the work of All Saints, he said that All Saints was the oldest standing church in Sudbury. This fact was not always a blessing as could be seen by the repairs that were necessary. This meant the church was considering what God wants of the church and which way to proceed in the future.</p>
2	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Canon Cheryl Collins, Tom Burrows, Peter Halden, Gerry Higginson, Rev Ruth Ridge, Sue Kistruk, Richard Blyth, Eileen Parker, Ann Smythe, Pat Ford, Jane and Patrick Kohler and the Baptist Church who have at the moment no CTiS&amp;D reps.</p>
3	<p><b>Welcome</b> Everyone was welcomed to the Forum by the Vice Chairman, Malcolm Offord.</p>
4	<p><b>Speaker</b> Major Sidney Pinches was welcomed to the Forum. He spoke about his work as a part-time chaplain at Stansted Airport. Having outlined the work he had done before retiring in 2013, he said that in 2014 he joined the chaplaincy at the airport. He told the Forum about his work with staff at the airport and with passengers. He made the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chaplains were trying to live the gospel rather than preach it</li> <li>• Chaplains are the church who have left the building</li> <li>• There should be notices on church doors so that people leaving the building are reminded that "Your mission starts here"!</li> <li>• Chaplains do not wait for people to come to them</li> <li>• We need to take church to the people and chaplaincy meets people on their own turf – where they are comfortable</li> <li>• Chaplains are not there to "sell" Jesus – they are there primarily to provide pastoral care, helping people to get on with their lives</li> <li>• Being a chaplain is about listening, being available, being able to communicate and respond, to encourage and support</li> <li>• St Francis said "Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words"</li> <li>• 1 Peter 3: 15 says "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>Minutes of June Forum – Approval – Matters Arising</b> The minutes of the June Forum were approved as accurate and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.</p>
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Annual Report</b> A copy of the Treasurer's annual report showing finances as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 had been circulated. The Forum approved these accounts. The Treasurer brought the following points to the meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to changes in the Town Pastors budget, it was suggested that consideration of their financial situation should be reviewed in 12 month's time. The Forum agreed to this arrangement.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal to provide £1000 in quarterly instalments to Samuel Duquemin to help with his costs while studying and to give consideration to a further £1,000 in 12 months time was approved.</li> <li>• It was agreed that the affiliation donations should remain at £25 and £40 per year.</li> <li>• The suggested redistribution of funds was agreed so that the initial amounts were as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General Fund £800</li> <li>○ Future Vision £1738.40 [taking account of sales of Christmas cards]</li> <li>○ Kettle &amp; Fish £6966.51</li> <li>○ Dorcas Fund £1662.85</li> <li>○ Prayer Breakfast £201.57</li> <li>○ Eden's Internship £2214.65</li> <li>○ Marriage Focus £1250</li> <li>+ Samuel Duquemin</li> <li>○ 18-35's with Fellowship £500</li> <li>Football &amp; snooker</li> <li>○ Events £1500</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The Treasurer was thanked for all the work that he does.</p>						
7	<p><b>Annual Reports</b></p> <p>Roger Pullan said that the reports showed that the amount of work being done by CTiS&amp;D was absolutely stunning. A great deal was being achieved by God's grace. It was noted that even more could be achieved if there were more volunteers. The Chairman said that many of the reports asked for more help.</p>						
8	<p><b>Chairman's Report/Vice-Chairman's Remarks</b></p> <p>The report of the Chairman, who was unable to attend, had been circulated.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman made the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTiS&amp;D had its own football team playing with Fellowship Football. CTiS&amp;D had just purchased new kit for the team. They were an important part of CTiS&amp;D. They needed financial advice as well as volunteer supporters and pastoral care.</li> <li>• Future Vision needed more help. They could achieve more if more help was forthcoming</li> <li>• Town Pastors needed more pastors and more pray-ers</li> <li>• Sudbury would be a poorer place if all these CTiS&amp;D activities did not take place</li> <li>• Kettle and Fish is recommended on Trip Advisor</li> </ul> <p>The Vice Chairman said that Ken and Christine Steel had been Chairman and Manager of Kettle and Fish for 4 years. They had decided to stand down from the end of this year. A great debt of thanks was due to both of them. A presentation of a gift reflecting CTiS&amp;D's thanks was made to Ken and Christine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions are currently going on to see how Kettle and Fish can continue</li> <li>• Eleanor's "Time to Pray" leaflet was commended to the Forum. It offered prayer suggestions for every aspect of Sudbury's life</li> <li>• It was hoped that as many churches as possible would take part in the Christmas Tree Festival to emphasise the meaning of Christmas</li> <li>• Judith Offord had decorated the tree over the past years and would be glad if someone would take this over – or be prepared to help</li> <li>• The CTiS&amp;D Christmas cards would be available shortly. It was hoped that many people would buy these</li> </ul> <p>Lord Andrew Phillips suggested that the Vice Chairman should be thanked for all the work he does. The meeting applauded MO.</p>						
9	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>The Forum approved unanimously the appointments en bloc of the following officers:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chairman</td> <td>Gerry Higginson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice Chairmen</td> <td>Malcolm Offord</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Peter Halden</td> </tr> </table>	Chairman	Gerry Higginson	Vice Chairmen	Malcolm Offord		Peter Halden
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	<p>Treasurer Peter Heard  Executive Secretary Ruth Ridge  Minutes Secretary Gill Phillips</p>
10	<p><b>Ratification of Appointments</b>  The following appointments were ratified:-</p> <p>Chairman and Manager of Kettle and Fish - Ken and Christine Steel  Sudbury Town Partnership - Chris Proffitt  Friends of St Peter's - Malcolm Offord</p> <p>No appointment was made at this time for a representative on WATCH [Working and Acting Together for Community Health]. The full report from WATCH was recommended to the Forum. [The link was in the Church News]. The Vice Chairman asked people to consider whether they could become the WATCH representative themselves or whether they knew of anyone who would do it. Thanks were expressed to Rev Richard Titford who had been the CTiS&amp;D representative for 13 years</p>
11	<p><b>Future Events</b>  The Vice Chairman mentioned the following events:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29<sup>th</sup> September Talk by Barry Wall about All Saints</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> October at 3.00 pm at the URC – meeting about the future of the URC buildings. Rev Malcolm Hill outlined discussions that had taken place, the finance that might be available. He added that co-operation between the body set up to deal with the URC buildings and the Friends of St Peter's was possible and that there was not a conflict of interest</li> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> October – 10 or so people were invited to join the local Muslim community for tea and to meet the new Imam. The meeting would take place at 1.30 pm at the Quakers Meeting House. Anyone interested should contact Jill Pullan</li> <li>• 14<sup>th</sup> October St Gregory's were organising a pilgrimage to Ely Cathedral</li> <li>• 15<sup>th</sup> October – the service led by Eden's would take place at St Gregory's. Everyone was encouraged to attend and support this service</li> <li>• Posada would be introduced to Sudbury this Christmas with a Nativity trail for children and participation by many who were knitting sheep for this event!</li> <li>• 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – the Pentecost Praise service would be led by Gavin Culver</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>News from Churches and AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Dixey said there would be service to celebrate the life of Bill Yates on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 4.00 pm at Suffolk Road Church</li> <li>• Malcolm Snow drew attention to the Diary Dates which gave dates through 2018. He asked that churches avoided these dates when planning their activities</li> <li>• A Memory Walk would take place on 7<sup>th</sup> October, starting from the Kingfisher Leisure Centre at midday. It would be raising funds for Alzheimer and dementia related organisations. Churches and individuals were encouraged to take part</li> <li>• On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October there would be a Pudding and Prayer Evening at Suffolk Road Church at 7.30 pm to raise funds for Future Vision. Everyone would be welcome</li> <li>• Holy Trinity Long Melford would be having a "Come and Sing" the Beethoven Mass in C on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.00 am.</li> </ul> <p>The Forum thanked Malcolm Snow for all the work he does for CTiS&amp;D.</p>
13	<p><b>Closing Prayer</b>  The meeting closed with prayer at 9.15 pm</p>