

Minutes of the Forum of Churches Together in Sudbury & District held on Thursday April 26th 2018

The Forum was attended by 25 people from 11 Churches

1	<p>Welcome and Opening Worship Everyone was welcomed to the Forum by the Vice Chairman, Malcolm Offord.</p> <p>Emma Stewart Darling opened the Forum with worship. She then went on to describe the work of the Vineyard Church emphasising their core value of “Come as you are”. She said that Jesus welcomed people as they are. He was comfortable with all sorts of people and they were comfortable with Him. She said that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many of the people who came through their doors have had bad experiences and are broken. The church loves them and cares for them• There was value for each person in engaging with others who find life difficult• Love changes us all
2	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Gerry Higginson, Penny Thewlis, Judith Offord, and Andrew Dixey</p>
3	<p>Speaker Vicky Leonard was welcomed to the Forum. She explained that the Storehouse was a Vineyard-born project. She said:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were 2 paid employees and 20 volunteers, some of whom came from churches and some with no faith• When the project started in 2008, they gave out 7 parcels per month. In 2018 they were giving out as many as 125 parcels per month• Their business model was to be “out of work”• It was acknowledged that the project was supported by other local churches and would not be so successful if that support was not given• Those seeking help were not scroungers, drug addicts etc – they were mostly those in employment• Those on job seekers allowance were getting only £57-£73 per week. Those on employment support allowance were getting only £73-£109 per week. There was no allowance for children in these families• Child care could cost between £5.70 and £6.55 per hour so those earning minimum wage had very little left to live on• All donations received were dated and the shelves stacked in the order that goods needed to be used• There was no wastage – only out of date food is disposed of• People are encouraged to swap what has been put in their bag if they do not like what has been chosen. It is pointed out there is no point in them taking away food that they will not use because they do not like it• It was important to remember that it took a great deal of effort and courage for people to walk through the door• It was important that everyone walking through the door is met with a smile and with a drink – and food if they are hungry• Qualified assessors talk to them to find out about their circumstances and what is going on in their lives. It is important to represent God’s love and to journey with the people. The main aim is to provide them with food and to give them support.• People can be signposted to sources of help• Those who come to Storehouse have come as a result of a referral. Once they arrive, they become part of the Storehouse family.• Some just come to chat. It was important to give each person love, but on some occasions they need more than encouragement to help them get out of their situation• The majority of people are in work, but there is only one person in the family earning, or they are on benefits because they cannot work.• They are not only food and money poor but also emotion poor

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is changing lives every week – including the lives of those who help at Storehouse • It is always a delight to see people with a smile on their face. <p>Vicki concluded by saying that they are always looking for volunteers particularly as they are now providing a delivery service for those in outlying villages who have no transport.</p> <p>The cost of running Storehouse was £300 per week which was spent on salaries, rent, fuel, carrier bags etc. Donations were always welcome.</p> <p>Vicky was thanked for her full and informative presentation.</p>
4	<p>Minutes of Forum held on 15th January 2018</p> <p>The minutes of the January Forum were approved as accurate and signed by the Chairman.</p>
5	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Item 8 – WATCH. Georgina Pinches had offered to represent CTiS&D at WATCH meetings. Any other people interested would be most welcome</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>A copy of the Treasurer's report showing finances as at 17th April 2018 had been circulated.</p> <p>The Treasurer reported to the meeting that he had received a letter from the Westminster Theological Centre reporting that Samuel Duquemin, for whose studies CTiS&D had funded £1,000, was doing well. The letter said that Sam had passed all his assignments, was actively involved in college projects and that they were happy for Sam to continue his studies there. It was noted that further financial support for Sam would be considered later in the year.</p> <p>The Chairman asked those churches who had not yet paid their affiliation donation to do so.</p> <p>The Treasurer was thanked for all the work that he does.</p>
7	<p>Chairman's Business</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the project by Eden's to purchase two adjoining buildings to continue and expand their work. They need to raise £180,000. They had a Just Giving page and any donations would be welcome. In addition they were looking for individuals with property or financial expertise who would be prepared to advise or even become a trustee. Church reps were asked to ensure that details of Eden's appeal were clearly displayed in their churches.</p> <p>MS was asked to speak about Christian Aid. He said:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CTiS&D United Service would be held at St Mary's Bures at 6.30 pm on Sunday May 13th. A poster was now available • More collectors are needed • There would be a coffee morning at St John's on Saturday 12th May from 10.00 – 12.00 • The sponsored canoe event would be held on Saturday 1st August. Sponsorship was needed. It was noted that any money raised for this event would qualify for 17:1 matched funding • The Tesco collection raised £251 which was eligible for the matched funding so became £4,500. <p>The Chairman said that Peter and Karen Avery are retiring and their final service at Living Waters would be taking place on Saturday 28th at 5.00 pm. Everyone was encouraged to attend as a token of support for Peter and Karen. [It has subsequently been learned that Paul Clapham is taking over as pastor].</p>

	<p>Local Area Co-ordination would be coming to an end at the end of June. It was suggested that letters of thanks for their work should be sent to Imogen Sherwood and to Callie Boardman. This was agreed. It was also suggested that anyone who had received the email notifying the end of this service should reply expressing concern. RR would be drafting a letter from CTiS&D to the County Council. It was also suggested that she should write, from CTiS&D, to the press. This was agreed.</p>
8	<p>News and Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cross his Path” - this had gone well. 200 crosses had been distributed round Sudbury and Great Cornard with some in Long Melford and Lavenham. The Facebook page noted on the crosses gave information about Easter services in the area and giving the story of Easter. This page received hits 450 in one day. Thanks were expressed to the Events Group for the work they had put into preparing and running this event • Adrian Plass – PRH thanked everyone who had helped with this event, including preparing a meal for the performers. A small profit had been made. • Pentecost Praise – this would take place on May 20th at St Peter’s at 6.30 pm. The speaker would be Gavin Calver. Help would be needed at 3.00 pm to set up chairs. • John Boardman told the meeting about the open-air service at Foxearth on Sunday May 6th at 3.00 pm. Everybody would be welcome. He also handed out cards that could be sent to MPs to ask them to stand up for a better deal for poor countries.
9	<p>Your Views</p> <p>Gill Sparks asked whether it would be possible for CTiS&D to have its own mobile microphone which could be taken to events to ensure that all proceedings could be clearly heard. It was agreed to consider this at the next Enabling Group meeting together with possible costings.</p>
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev Malcolm Hill said that he understood that the Hive were attempting to purchase, or hire, the URC buildings. The buildings would be suitable for worship and for all kinds of community activities. • DF said that it was not absolutely definite that Living Waters would be closing. • Andy Jowitt said that as a newcomer to the area he was very impressed with the way churches worked together in Sudbury • PH said that DeltaPrint had been sold to Indigo Ross. MS said that the firm used to print the CTiS&D leaflet offered very competitive rates • MS reminded people that the date of the July Forum had changed to Thursday 12th July. It would be held at Acton with a BBQ from 6.30 pm • DF said he hoped that despite all the changes needed, the prayer breakfast rota would be completed.
11	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p>The meeting closed with the Grace</p>