

Churches Together in Sudbury and District Annual Reports from  
Organisations 2018.

*Agape Café* 

Agape Café is a joint venture between the churches in Great Cornard. It is open every Wednesday from 10.00 am until 13.00 in the Terrapin Building at Wells Hall Old School on the corner of Head lane and Wells Hall Road.

We serve hot and cold drinks, cakes scones and filled rolls - all at very reasonable prices. Our main aim is to provide a venue in Cornard where people can meet together and enjoy one another's company.

We are very grateful to all those who help out week by week either by serving or by providing delicious cakes and scones.

As every in ventures like this we could always do with a few more pairs of hands and if you could spare a few hours each month and would like to join us please come to the café and speak to me or ring me on 01787 319080 or by email [peterhalden@hotmail.com](mailto:peterhalden@hotmail.com)

If you haven't joined us for a coffee why not give us a go one Wednesday, we would love to see you

Peter Halden



Christian Aid Week began this year on May 13<sup>th</sup> with the Sunday evening service, held at St. Mary's Church in Bures. The speaker was Rev. Ruth Ridge and representatives from several local churches took part. Over the week, 60 people collected door-to-door in Sudbury and Great Cornard. The total collected was £4,354.32. Several roads were again not covered. It would be good to have more collectors to replace those who are no longer able to collect door-to-door.

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, another very successful sponsored canoe trip down the River Stour was organised to raise money for Christian Aid. Ten people, including Simon Snell (Regional Coordinator for Suffolk Christian Aid), paddled from Wissington to Stratford St. Mary on a beautiful summer's day. So far, generous

sponsors have contributed £2,200, which will be enhanced by an amazing 17:1 matched funding. This means that every £1 raised will be turned into £18! The event this year was to raise money for a Christian Aid project in Kenya, supporting children and orphans affected by HIV/AIDS.

As John and I will be moving away from Sudbury next summer (2019), a new Local Organiser is urgently needed. Please think carefully and prayerfully whether you, or anyone you know, might be able to take on the role. I or Malcolm Snow can supply more information about what is involved in this very worthwhile task. It would be good if a replacement Local Organiser could work alongside me for Christian Aid Week in 2019.

Christian Aid works on behalf of British churches in more than 40 countries, not only providing emergency relief, but, more importantly, supporting long term development.

Christian Aid are most grateful to everyone who helps in any way.

Ann Boardman

### **Communications**

Nicki Dixon joined the team a year ago and provides invaluable help with press publicity for special CTiS&D events. She is also ready to assist individual churches in this way. Contact her via [nicki.dixon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicki.dixon@hotmail.co.uk).



### **Website and emails**

The website [churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk](http://churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk) carries permanent information about Churches Together in Sudbury & District and individual churches, current and archived news, and an online calendar. We welcome comments on articles; use the form on the *Contact us* page under *Communications*. Please send other suggestions or corrections to me via [ctis.news@gmail.com](mailto:ctis.news@gmail.com). It continues to be popular, averaging more than 1,000 hits per month over the past twelve months. The help from those who maintain the website and Google Calendar is invaluable.

About 250 people receive weekly emails about local church news; to join them contact me as above. We are most grateful to those who ensure that items from Church News are included in church magazines and weekly notices. Please make the website and email list known in your own church community.

Malcolm Snow

### Social Media



I keep the Facebook site regularly updated whenever I can with various activities going on within Churches Together in Sudbury & District including Kettle & Fish opening times, and the prayer breakfasts plus special events and services and fund-raising activities, provided I am told about them!

Currently, we have just 67 people following us which is disappointing - can you help us to increase this number? The more people who 'like' us and 'follow' us the more their friends will do the same. Please can I ask for more people to take up this challenge and show the town that we are up there with all the rest!

Lynda Sebbage



CTiS&D has a Twitter account (which I manage) with 174 followers and items are tweeted such as coffee mornings, open days and other events.

I join in with Suffolk Hour on Twitter every Wednesday evening and get good interaction with local people.

Nicki Dixon

### **SUFFOLK** **Free Press** Local press

Weekend Thought appears regularly in the Suffolk Free Press and many of the authors are also active supporters of CTiS&D. Following changes at the Sudbury Mercury, the monthly Church Chat column has been discontinued.

### Eden's

We're sure you will have seen the news that we are fundraising this year to try and buy the buildings that Eden's has been operating out of for the last 19 years. This has obviously taken up a lot of our attention and time but we have also been continuing with all our usual activities whilst doing this. So far for the building fund we have raised £24,000 of the £160,000 needed to be able to buy the buildings and carry out essential repairs to the buildings. We are really grateful to all of you who have supported us so far and we would continue to ask for your prayers for success from some of the many grant bids we have submitted. We would also really appreciate it if you could encourage your

churches to consider supporting us with an extra donation this year which we could put towards the building fund.

So amongst all this fundraising we have continued to run the evening youth clubs in Great Cornard, Glemsford and Sudbury and the after-school drop-in at Sudbury also. We have again been involved with the Prayer space at Thomas Gainsborough School organised by future vision which was a real privilege to help the students take some time out of the busy school day to think and consider things they may not usually give any time to. We were very pleased to have enough interest this year to be able to run a second 'Understanding your Teenagers' course which uses the material from the Care for the Family Time out for Parents Teenagers course. The seven week course was extremely well received and the parents gave really good feedback saying that they had gained a lot from it.

We continue to hold our evangelistic dinner nights at the end of each term which give us the opportunity to share the gospel with the young people who choose to attend. We are really pleased that the Sunday night youth café which developed out of the evening Agape café has also continued strongly this year and is building in numbers. It is a really great support for the Christian teenagers of the town to meet together and have fun with each other whilst also supporting each other in what can be a challenging time of life to be a Christian. A couple of them have also brought friends along who are just wanting to find out about the Christian faith and it has been really encouraging to see them become part of the group and consider their beliefs.

Stuart and Jude Ayling

### **Fairtrade report**

In December 2017 we decorated a Christmas tree in St Peter's with the message "Fairtrade Brexit with Hope". We encouraged the public to write to our MP to ask him to persuade the government to consider the poverty of producers in poorer countries when negotiating Brexit and post-Brexit deals eg to call for a duty-free, quota - free market access scheme and to consider the impact of all trade deals on poorer countries.

The group was busy during Fairtrade Fortnight. There was a very successful coffee morning with the theme "Come on in to Fairtrade." The group had a photo

with the Mayor of Sudbury at the Town Hall, showing the important support of the Council for Fairtrade. There were other Fairtrade activities across Sudbury at Tudor Primary School and Sudbury Beavers.

The Fairtrade group has met regularly. The group has kept in touch with SAFT [<http://www.suffolkfairtrade.org.uk/>]. Members will be attending the national Fairtrade conference at the L.S.E. in October. New members who support Fairtrade are very welcome.

Rev John Boardman

### **Fellowship Football**

The 2018/19 season kicks off on 24<sup>th</sup> September and runs through until the beginning of July 2019.

This year, we have seven teams taking part. Two of them represent Churches Together, two represent Number 72, in addition there are teams representing Eden's, Fellowship Snooker and Rougham Baptist Church.

At our recent AGM, Mark Gillett (who runs one of the Churches Together teams), was formally adopted as the league's Chairperson.

After running a team for 12 seasons in total, Paul Tamsett has decided that the time has come for him to relinquish the 'hurly burly' of team management. This season Paul will be focusing on administrative duties as the League's Secretary.

Sadly there wasn't anybody available to take over from Paul, who previously ran the Vineyard's football team, and so their players have all joined up with one of Number 72's teams.

Our values are modelled upon the teachings of Jesus, which are foundational to Fellowship Football. In the main, players like the fact that we play without referees: everyone being encouraged to play honestly and to place a higher value on friendship and fellowship, rather than upon our desire to win. Foul language is frowned upon.

The vast majority of those who take part are not Christians, yet every week, the players respond positively, as they listen to a brief talk where we outline the league's ethics. We carefully explain that, whilst we strive for the highest

standards in our own personal conduct, it is quite unrealistic to expect perfection from anyone in these things. After all, we are all flawed human beings, who sometimes let both ourselves and each other down. We all need Jesus.

Since our inception, with regards to the players behaviour, I can honestly say that last season was the best ever. Last season we introduced Team Leader training sessions, to equip non-church players who would like to deepen their involvement. The sessions take the players a little deeper in their understanding of the Christian Faith - which is something they will need if they want to run their own teams.

Every season we hold two social events, which contains some spiritual content. This season, these will be overseen by Stuart Ayling. We were greatly encouraged at our last event which we held in April, when forty of the players came to our Soul Cafe. The event was held in a local Indian restaurant and at the end, a short talk was given by Shaun Almond who shared his Christian faith. This too was well received.

We are currently on the look out for a League Chaplain. The role of Christian team leaders is quite demanding. Typical duties include - organising players, washing kit, collecting match fees etc. If we're not careful, these activities can absorb our energies and limit the time that we are able to devote to ministering to the players.

We would really value the support of someone with a deep love of the Lord, who has a passion for football and who could devote themselves to a league chaplaincy role. The person we are looking for should -

- Be sociable and the enjoy the company of the players,
- Be available most Monday evenings to watch the lads play, get to know them, and when appropriate, provide counsel, and perhaps pray with them.
- Be able to deliver a one minute pre-match talk, explaining to the players how the teaching of Jesus affects the league.
- Lead a monthly small group which has a Christian focus.

If you know anyone who might fit the bill, please could you let me know. We especially value the support and goodwill of Churches Together. We see ourselves as just one part of the outreach work of the church in Sudbury and District.

We are particularly thankful for your prayers and those of the prayer breakfast group, as well as others in the town who uphold us in prayer

With thanks and every blessing  
Paul Tamsett

PS You can keep up with all the latest news and reports of the matches and the leagues activities by visiting our website [www.fellowshipfootball.co.uk](http://www.fellowshipfootball.co.uk). Just google Fellowship Football - our site is the first one that comes up in your search results.

### Friends of St Peter's

I have only recently joined this group and I'm one of a number of new members working with a new chairman, Oliver Forder.

The Heritage Lottery application bid is making progress and St Peter's is seeking to raise its profile in the community in order to help the bid. New signage has been designed and purchased.

St Peter's continues to host a wide variety of events and now also hosts a pop-up café run by The Bridge as often as they are able to staff it.

Gerry Higginson.



Once again over this last year we are grateful to God for his presence and guidance in all that we do at Future Vision. We are very grateful to all of you who support the school's work whether by prayer, financially, volunteering or sometimes just by showing an interest and asking us how things are going. All of those things are a huge encouragement to us as we try and discern God's will from day to day.

**Open the Book** takes place in 11 primary schools. 1,000 + children get to hear the great Bible stories we know and love on a regular basis and to reflect on their meaning.

These assemblies are led by Lesley Mitchell, Debbie Steed and Ruth Ridge.

**N. Vision Clubs** are different in each school. 1 school has a Film Club where they watch a small piece of film and then discuss an issue that emerges from what they have seen. Others are a safe space to talk and ask questions about faith and life alongside crafts and games.

Increasingly we are seeing the need to provide a 'chaplaincy' style opportunity in Primary schools. In one school Lesley has been given a space and has set up an area for children to go and talk, or hang tags for feelings, prayers and questions. She has the whole morning in school on Mondays. Please pray for this 'sacred space' and for Lesley.

### **Prayer Spaces**

Bures Primary and Gt. Waldingfield have held Prayer Space days with opportunities for children to engage with activities and to reflect.

These days are hugely valuable. We have requests for more!

### **Thomas Gainsborough School**

1400 plus pupils plus all teaching staff are seen in an overtly Christian way each term [whole school assemblies and house assemblies]

**Exploring Christianity group.** 12 meet regularly.

***'Its hard to be a young Christian in secondary school, please pray for them. It would be easier for them to keep their heads down and not acknowledge their Christian faith!'***

**N:vision film and cake club.** . Around 20 meet weekly with Ian and Liz.

**Anamcara Prayer Space** 280 Year 7's experienced it in 2018.

Alongside this they are involved in a variety of lessons, personal one to ones, working with staff [not just teaching but cleaners etc] and fortnightly drop in sessions for staff.



All of this is a big undertaking for 5 workers and their teams of volunteers and much more could be done.

Our Management group and the Trustees are meeting at the end of September to pray and reflect on the way forward for the coming school year. There is much to do but we need to be sure we are following God's leading. We would value your prayers for us as we seek God together.

Please continue to pray and support us in any way you can.

If you would like us to come and share some of the good news with your church please get in touch and do take a look at our website [www.futurevision.site](http://www.futurevision.site)

ON MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER WE ARE HAVING A PUDDING AND PRAYER EVENING AT SUFFOLK ROAD CHURCH AT 7.30. PLEASE COME AND SHARE THE EVENING WITH US!

We would love to see you...

Faith Marsden

### **Kettle and Fish**

Since taking over the running of Kettle and Fish in January Andrew and Anita Dixey and I have been on a steep learning curve. Thanks to the support and help of Ken and Christine Steel and a wonderful dedicated team of volunteers all continues to go well and Kettle and Fish continues to be a popular venue, both with regulars and with one off visitors to Sudbury.

Our welcomers provide a warm greeting and some are able to offer tours of St Peter's to those interested. We also have a dedicated team of listeners who will chat and pray with any who wish to. We also have a quiet prayer corner and Christian literature available for any who wish to take a book.

The Fair Trade stall offers a wide range of food and gifts and we also host other organisations on occasion.

The team in the kitchen provide a wide range of cakes, filled rolls and snacks and the tables are almost always full. It is wonderful to be able to offer this

hospitality in the centre of town and we aim to do this on Thursdays whenever St Peter's is not booked by other groups.

Highlights this year have included receiving a level 5 health and hygiene certificate and being invited to work alongside the town hall on Suffolk day. We continue to work closely with the Friends of St Peter's who manage the building.

We always welcome new volunteers to join the team, either to help set up on a Wednesday afternoon or to help in any way on a Thursday. We are particularly keen to recruit volunteers for the Thursday afternoon session at present as a couple of our regular helpers are not able to be there at present.

Ruth Ridge.

### **Party in the park**

July, the start of the school holidays and the annual party in the park.

We have been attending this event for a few years now and learn from our mistakes and triumphs each time.

One big learning curve this year was the need for new gazebo pegs and possibly a new gazebo with sides.

We set up the gazebo with props from the Open the Book story of Adam and Eve - a full garden of Eden with animals, plants, fish, a tree with fruit and a snake. Unfortunately I then spent the first hour holding on to all of it as the wind was too strong and blew it over.

Being on my own with this was a challenge so I dismantled all except the tree and snake and asked the children to guess the bible story, some could, whilst others needed a bit of help.

The theme was that God had created a perfect world, but that it all changed and darkness came into the world.

We had two activities; one was scratch art, which allows the children to take a piece of black card and scratch it with a special tool to reveal rainbow colours underneath. The children thought of things that make the world a better place and scratched either words or pictures which they either kept or hung around

the gazebo. There were some lovely ideas - about loving others, being kind, no bullying, being kind to animals and the planet and being a good friend.

The second activity was taking a luggage tag and writing a prayer or message to God and then hanging them around the gazebo. We had about 30 of these, either names or messages.

It was a good day, spoilt only by the stress of trying to keep everything upright at the beginning.

We had a few families coming in and got a chance to talk to some of the parents and carers about the work of Future Vision. I also had a lovely chat with some ladies from the childrens' centre, who were impressed with the work we do and who talked about story telling for tots.

Overall a positive day. Thank you Lord.

Lesley Mitchell.

### **PRAYER BREAKFASTS**

This has been a mixture of good and bad. Firstly, we have had an average of 21 folk attending the breakfasts and we have a fairly healthy balance in anticipation of supporting, again, charities that 'breakfasters' wish to assist financially. BUT, the downside is the seemly reluctance to offer church premises when acting as hosts. It has been a massive job in trying to fill dates even for September BUT the good news that this has now been achieved and we are o.k. for the rest of the current year. I don't know what the answer is because obviously with the numbers attending it is all thought very worthwhile. Please the answer is in your hands. I dread to think how I am to get on with January to March 2019 spring session.

A Statement of Income and Expenditure is available upon request.

David Ford.

### **SAMARITAN'S PURSE - SHOE BOXES 2017**

As many of you are aware I was unable to assist this year for family reasons, but I am given to understand all went well. I was able to visit during the early days in order to deliver 103 boxes from Cornard Christian Fellowship.

In all 7,438 boxes were sent from the Halsted warehouse and the break-down was as follows:-

<b>AGE RANGE</b>	<b>BOY.</b>	
<b>GIRL.</b>		
2-4	582	597
5-9	1,740	2,368
10-14	939	1,212

### SOME STATISTICS.

7,480 shoeboxes were sent 1<sup>st</sup> December to Iraq. They travelled 7,985 miles, spending 32 days at sea. 1,460 shoeboxes were sent on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December to Estonia and they travelled 680 miles, which took 30 hours by road.

Well done everybody.

Now as to this year's campaign. Kim has just started a new job and is under negotiation as to when the warehouse will be open. She senses that it could well be the final three weeks of November.

David Ford.

### Sudbury Town Pastors

We are often so encouraged to know, that there are many people who think of, and are praying for the Town Pastor team, when the Town Pastors are on the streets of Sudbury on a Saturday night from 10pm to 3am.

Of the many trials the apostle Paul faced, reiterating that his trust was in God, he writes to the church at Corinth that he believed it was often as a result of, "...as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many"

As we look back over the past year, there have been many times when we have seen real answers to prayer on the streets, and the gracious hand of God has been with us as we've sought to minister to those we meet. So thank you for thinking of us, and praying for us.

(One of our Town Pastors, who moved to Cornwall in the earlier part of this year, was miraculously recovered, unconscious, from the sea, and survived. So can we not claim divine intervention at sea as well as on the streets?! )

As in most years, there have been changes to our team for different reasons. Please pray with us, for more people to become involved in such a wonderful opportunity to reach out to those in our town community, whose only contact with Christians, will often be with the Town Pastors.

It is humbling to speak with our Home Pray-ers, and learn of their commitment to praying during their one hour slot, (usually one hour a month). It can be costly, waking sometimes in the early hours of the morning, in order to phone in to Prayer Base, standing with the Town Pastors through prayer. We are so grateful to our prayer team.

Our ultimate desire (and we constantly seek openings in our many conversations), is to point those we meet on the streets, to Jesus.

There are some weekends of the year, when it seems interest in alcohol is little diminished from previous years. Freddos and bottles of water, together with kindness and love and a listening ear, are our means of entry in ministry. But it is also very alarming to us, witnessing the evidence of an increase in alcohol/drug/substance abuse. We can but ask God to intervene, and do all we can to work towards showing that there is a better way to live.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October is Town pastor Sunday, so there may be local radio broadcasts seeking to raise awareness, and the profile of Town Pastors county wide.

At present in Sudbury, there are 9 Town Pastors, and a total team of 42.

We truly thank God for the opportunity to be "out there"

Frank Marsden

### **CTiS&D 18-35s Task Group**

CTiS&D committees can suggest projects, and if approved at a Forum, can facilitate them. But progress, whether for Kettle & Fish, Town Pastors, Fellowship Football & Snooker, Advent Trail etc., depends on active participation and prayer support from member churches.

Reaching young, particularly single, over 18s is a real challenge. From the CofE perspective, Revd Dave Gardner, St Edmundsbury Director of Mission, wrote recently "To be honest, we are starting from a very low base even with teenagers, let alone young adults". It's encouraging that some churches locally have increasing numbers of young children and parents, but bringing over-18 singles in 'from outside' remains a huge barrier for most.

This year our 18-35s Task Group has focused on the need for a safe, relaxed, accessible town environment where YPs who have perhaps already come into relationship with Christians through friendships or church outreach, can discuss life's questions. A sort of pre-Alpha experience, a step on the journey to discipleship and church membership. Some local groups already do this, but more is needed. It might be run in our local Costa, as that company supports Christian events. Shaun Almond, from Halstead but well known here, offers his input. There has been much discussion and consultation with ministers & groups, many of whom have welcomed it, but so far we have not found the necessary team to run it.

Wanted: a small group of keen Christians in their 20s, supported by church leaders and others. And the prayers of us all. Surely we must devote more resources to these precious young adults. One question is: can we achieve more together than separately?

*For more info, contact Roger Pullan - [rojill@aol.com](mailto:rojill@aol.com)*