

Agreed minutes of the CTiS&D AGM held on Monday 11th October 2021

Attendance: 26 people from 15 churches

The meeting was chaired by Peter Halden

1 Worship and prayer

The meeting was opened by worship and prayer led by the Chairman – Peter Halden

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Gerry Higginson, Sue Ayres and Mandy Turner [St Gregory], Judith Offord and Francis Attwood

3 Farewells and welcomes

Over the period since the last AGM, it was noted that the following people had either retired or moved from the area:

Rev Steve Morley from Bures

Rev Caroline Hallett from Acton and Great Waldingfield

Rev Cheryl Collins and Rev Tom Mumford from St Gregory and All Saints

Andrew and Emma Darling from the Vineyard Church

We had welcomed:

Rev Faith Marsden to Acton and Great Waldingfield

Rev Chris Eyden to assist at St Gregory and All Saints

and would be welcoming Joel and Kady Taylor to the Vineyard Church

4 Minutes of 2019 AGM and 2020 Annual Report

The minutes of the 2019 AGM had been approved and signed at the Forum on 23rd January 2020

5 Treasurer's Annual Report & Accounts and allocation of united service offerings

The Treasurer suggested some extra amounts should be allocated to Future Vision, Storehouse, Sudbury Community Depot and Abi's Footprints to offset the shortages from last year. The meeting was in favour of the allocations suggested by the Treasurer being made. He emphasised that it was most important that where there was an anticipated related united service it was ensured that an offering is taken up either during the service or at the end of it.

A copy of the accounts for the year 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021 had been circulated. The Chairman proposed that these accounts should be approved and accepted. The meeting agreed unanimously.

Following the death of Ken Button, it was necessary to appoint a further signatory. Tom Burrows had agreed to take this role. The meeting approved this appointment.

6 Annual Reports - with additional speakers

Copies of the annual reports for 2020 - 2021 had been circulated. The Chairman commented that despite restrictions imposed over the last couple of years, a lot had been achieved.

Ruth said that No 72 who were due to talk to the AGM about their work and neighbourhood chaplains had sent their greetings and their apologies as they had been unable to attend

Kettle and Fish

Ruth gave an update on Kettle and Fish. She said that:

- Kettle and Fish had now moved to Suffolk Road and that thanks were due to Andrew and Anita Dixey and the trustees of Suffolk Road, and also to all those who had assisted with moving everything from St Peter's to Suffolk Road
- All had gone smoothly and they were now able to meet regularly on Thursdays other than the first Thursday of the month
- The volunteers had been fantastic. More volunteers were needed and anyone interested should contact either Ruth or Andrew
- There was no longer a large notice board but there was a rolling powerpoint with advertisements and information
- It was hoped to have a Fairtrade stall in the future
- It was hoped to have a small room where small meetings could take place
- Prayers for the future were requested – for wisdom and guidance

Andy Jowitt then gave an update on Foxearth Meadows. He said

- It was important to put our love for our neighbours and our planet into action
- It was important to act now. Nature was in trouble. This country had lost 53% of its biodiversity.
- Foxearth Meadows was intended to be a place that was good for nature and good for people. It was to be a healthy place and a place of healing
- Points for thanks were
 - A good team of volunteers
 - All the events that it had been possible to run
- It was hoped that school visits would start again
- There were plans for a mobility impaired path
- Both he and Mark had several opportunities to speak about Foxearth to churches etc
- Notelets with photographs from Foxearth were available for £4.00 for 8 cards as a fundraising project
- Prayers were requested for a place where animals and people are safe and a place which honours God.

There were no questions on any of the annual reports.

7 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman put several suggestions to the meeting:

- My first thought surrounds "Vision" – we at CTiS&D need to grasp a new vision of the way forward. The steering group need to look at what its "Vision" is? - Suggestions from this meeting would be welcomed.
- We need somehow to attract younger "blood" into CT and get every church, who are affiliated, to designate a representative so we can hear every churches view perhaps
- We should consider having a service to renew our covenant with one another. We did have a renewal of covenant service in 2017 - during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and hosted by Fr Peter at the Roman Catholic Church
- We need to help build up the Christians in our community as well as reach out to others. Could we run a mission?
- Could we have another concert with a high-profile singer (Stuart Townend or Lou Fellingham spring to mind)

- When, or if, the council reintroduces “Party in the Park” how could we get involved?
- Should we reproduce the CT leaflet – although it is recognised that it becomes out-of-date almost as soon as it is printed
- It has been suggested that we looked to repeat Praise on Market Hill. This would need a group of people wholly committed to seeing this through from start to finish to make this a success.
- Perhaps we should focus on Green Issues and Fairtrade

Whatever we decide to do we must grab this God given opportunity of a new beginning as we get our freedom back and use it fully to His Glory

8 Elections

The Chairman said that there had been no nominations for Press Officer. This was an important post and people were asked to consider whether there was anyone in their church who was “social media savvy” who might be approached to take this role.

He said that the following had been proposed

CTIS&D Chair – Gerry Higginson

Vice-Chairs – Andy Jowitt & Peter Halden

Treasurer – Peter Heard

Executive Secretary – Ruth Ridge

Minutes Secretary – Gill Phillips

Communications – Malcolm Snow

He suggested that these people should be elected en bloc. The meeting agreed and the nominated officers were appointed.

9 Ratification of Appointments

The appointments of Ruth Ridge as Chairman and Andrew and Anita Dixey as Managers of Kettle and Fish were ratified by the AGM

Other appointments needed to be made. It was noted that Nikki Dixon had had to stand down as Chairman of the Fairtrade Group. Sudbury’s status as a Fairtrade town would need to be renewed soon. An appeal was made for anyone with a heart for Fairtrade to get involved. It was not a Christian organisation so anyone enthusiastic about Fairtrade would be most welcome.

Roger Pullan spoke about the need to have someone with enthusiasm for the 18-35 age group. He explained what action had been taken with that group – with meetings and speakers and fresh expressions. He felt that it was not CTIS&D responsibility to tell churches what to do but to encourage awareness of the situation. He said 93.6% of that age group had no connection with a church. He asked that people should look in their churches for anyone who would follow up this focus. He said that prayers were needed for the right person to come forward.

10 Charity Status

Andrew Dixey said that any organisation that raised more than £5,000 a year for charity was required to register. Since Kettle and Fish money all went through CTiS&D accounts, it should be CTiS&D that registered rather than K&F.

Lord Andrew Phillips suggested that those principally concerned should meet with him to discuss what was required. He added that it made good sense to be a charity in order to take advantage of the tax benefits available.

The Chairman asked for the meeting's agreement that Lord Phillip's offer of help should be accepted and that the proposal should go forward to the Steering Group with the guidance given and a report taken to EnGp and Forum as soon as possible. The meeting agreed.

11 Future Events

- Eden's Service – Sunday October 17th at 6.30 pm. Ruth said that Eden's required access to St John's from 4.30 pm. She would be able to open up. She asked that CTiS&D provided welcomers and coffee makers as it was a CTiS&D event. Jane Jowitt and Malcolm Offord volunteered. It was noted that it was important that a collection is taken. Peter Halden would give the CTiS&D welcome at the beginning and Ruth would give the closing blessing.
- Prayer Supper – 21st October, at 7.00pm, at St Andrews – only 4 people had indicated their intention to attend. Peter said that anyone wishing to attend should give him their names at the end of the meeting.
- Possible Advent Trail – Ruth outlined a possible advent trail round Sudbury which would remind people of the Christmas story and message. It would need to be Covid safe and because of the time of the year would need to minimise time and commitment needed to run it. She suggested that schools and businesses might be asked to make a "sculpture" of an angel. These would be placed in shops and a map prepared of their locations. She has confirmed with the Town Centre Manager that such a trail would not clash with anything the Town Council was proposing. She was asked whether there would be a prize. It was suggested that a small gift for completing the trail might be given as motivation. It was possible the library might be prepared to be used for this purpose. An alternative might be for all completed trails to be entered into a draw for eg a book token. The meeting agreed that research could be started into the viability of this proposed activity.

12 News and AOB

Malcolm O said the Christmas Tree Festival was being held this year at St Gregory from December 7th to December 11th. He hoped that there would be more entries from churches to emphasise the Christmas message. Clare Lodge agreed to dress a tree on behalf of CTiS&D.

On 11th December at All Saints at 7.30 pm there would be a performance of "Dickens and Christmas Carol". Tickets would be £7.50 to include refreshments.

13 **Your Views**

Lord Andrew Phillips said that all churches in the town were suffering from a decline in congregations and an increase in age of congregations. He suggested that it was a matter of real urgency for every individual to look at what they could do about it. He said it was a priority issue. The lack of Christian input was beginning to show in the younger generation, in their mental health, and in the loss of neighbourliness between young people.

Tom Burrows said the church needed to be more visible and doing something outside in the community. People would not come into church buildings. Roger endorsed the need for visibility.

Peter Heard said that nowadays people were more likely to maintain contact through electronic means. Ruth added that this underlined the need for a Press Officer with social media knowledge.

14 **Time of Prayer**

Ruth led a time of prayer.

15 **Closing Devotions and the Grace**

The Chairman invited the meeting to join in the song "You are my Vision" by Rend Collective and then added a blessing written by Richard Halverson the one time Chaplain to the US Senate

Wherever you go, God is sending you

Wherever you are God has put you there

Christ who indwells you has something He wants to do with you where you are - Believe this, and go in His love, his grace and his power – Amen

The meeting then closed by sharing the Grace.