

Churches Together in Sudbury and District (CTiS) – 2012.

Archive material from 1989 (with thanks to Peter Heard, for loan of documents and correspondence.)

CTiS was born following the disbanding of the Sudbury and District Christian Council, in May 1989.

Twenty-two years later, it is good to re-visit the **vision** and **proposed organisation** of that time:

The Vision

- A forum for Christian thought and belief, where we listen and talk to each other, whether in full conference or house-groups
- Occasions of 'communion' – united worship and fellowship.
- Caring for the whole well-being of all people in the community, speaking clearly to them on vital issues and taking appropriate action.
- Engaging in mission locally and supporting mission in the world.

If this **Vision** is to 'come down to earth', we shall need to be 'all together in one place', to take counsel together and to plan action in several teams, concentrating on the four facets noted above.

Fulfilment of the **Vision** will depend on the dedicated participation of persons from every congregation.

Sometimes, inter-church cooperation has been spoiled by the way we have behaved, especially by rigidity of outlook and inflexible organisation.

Whilst we need some guidelines in the form of a **Constitution**, may our new togetherness be marked by free 'association', rather than by strict 'membership' and also by willingness, if need be, to 'agree to differ'. Above all: to 'love one another',
to care for 'those who are not of this fold' and
to have a zeal to be part of the team of the disciples of Jesus, our Lord.

Organisation:

- A Forum, comprising four members of each congregation, one of whom would normally be the Priest, Minister or Leader.
To meet not less than three times annually in order to:
oversee the whole activity,
decide on matters of principle,
arrange the pooling of resources.
- Setting up of four action groups, comprising one member, Ministerial or Lay, from each congregation.
These to arrange projects in each of the four areas of **Vision**, outlined above.

All of the above was to be discussed on 16th November 1989, at St John's Methodist Church.

By January 1990, **seven churches** were involved and a **MAKE WAY for CHRISTMAS** event had been deemed a success, with thoughts of a **MAKE WAY for THE CROSS**, as an Easter project.

Also in the planning stages were the resumption of a **CHILDRENS' SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB**, a **TOWN-WIDE MISSION** in 1992 and the first **UNITED SERVICE**, held in St Peter's Church on 29th July 1990 at 6.00pm. (Order of Service available to read.)

Just prior to that Service, the new CTIS officers were elected:

Chairman: Rev'd. Derrick Stiff.

Secretary: Mr David Cackett.

Treasurer: Mr Peter Heard.

By the end of 1990, a **Covenant** signed by the church leaders had been sent to the **Town Hall** for display and a letter of congratulation for this had been received from **Bishop John**.

The **Suffolk Police Consultative Committee** had asked for a church representative.

Christmas plans included a **Shopping Night carol-singing march** from St John's Church to the town centre, and a **Christmas Cracker Restaurant**, running from December 1st – 22nd.

A **Call to Prayer** was received to join with the national **Decade of Evangelism** 1991- 2000.

In 1991, the **Mission Action Group** was planning a **United Mission** in September 1992, with the help of 45-50 Christian students from **Cambridge**.

Concern was also felt for the young homeless, several of whom were camping in tents, by the river in Sudbury.

In March, **Budgen's supermarket** reversed its decision to open on Sundays as a direct result of intervention by **CTIS**, and a photograph of several key leaders was published in the **East Anglian Daily Times**. This action was part of the national **Keep Sunday Special** campaign. (Budgen's later rescinded that decision.)

After a lapse of two years, **Christian Aid Week** was re-instated in Sudbury and **Christian Cargo** had taken several lorry loads of clothing and goods to **Romania** and the **Turkish/Iranian border**.

Comment on the **Easter Sunday United Service**: 'Had gone well, church beautifully decorated with flowers **but**, the service was too long, the heating inadequate, more programmes were needed and the lighting had not worked properly.

Plans for a 1992 town **Mission entitled "Life with a Purpose"** began, with three areas of the town to be targeted: Springlands, Town and Ballingdon and Cornard. The budget forecast was for £8000.

At the 1991 AGM, it was agreed that the churches suggested annual contribution should remain at £12.

1992

Concern was raised, via the Police Consultative Report, about the numbers of young children out late at night and the possible dangers to and by them. CTiS felt a responsibility towards them, particularly during the forthcoming Mission: “**Life with a Purpose**”, led by a team of students from Westcott House, Cambridge – a C.of E. Theological College.

The overall aim was:-

To lay claim to the souls of men, women, young people and children, through the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ, using all acceptable means.

The Mission to run from September 18th-22nd, with a budget of £8,000.

The programme was as follows:

18th: ‘Festival of Life’ in Belle Vue Park.

19th: March for Jesus, around the town, plus street work.

Evening Barn Dance at Sudbury Upper School, with bar and live band.

20th: Sunday lunch. Civic Service in St Peter’s Church.

21st: ‘Word Alive Bible Exhibition’ in St Peter’s Church – throughout week.

22nd: Works Meeting – Industrial Lunch at Lucas (*now Delphi*), invitations sent to other firms in the Area.

23rd: Students Day Off. Each Church running its own events.

24th: Painting and Music by Janet Bury at St. Peter’s.

Lunchtime Question and Answer time.

Men’s Night Out – Team events and a speaker, at the Football Ground.

25th: School Assemblies.

Evening Beach Party at the Kingfisher Pool.

26th: Children’s events.

Street March.

Sudbury Prom Praise.

27th: Community Lunch after usual church services.

Closing CELEBRATION Service.

The many records of this event show a real cooperation between all the CTiS member churches, a firm prayer basis and sacrificial giving of money.

Following the mission, it was decided to maintain regular prayer times for issues relating to the town.

Discussion started about the possible appointment of a Youth Worker, it being necessary to build a bridge between the church and unchurched youth. This to be a major area for prayer.

Chris Rowe sought approval for a Sunday School in the Springlands area, following many successful Holiday Clubs and nowhere to regularly follow these up.

An ecumenical group was set up to look at Christian work generally in Springlands.

The Covenant was re-signed, as some ministers had changed.

1993

Ministers' Fraternal Members (October 1993):

Suffolk Road Church: Geoff Abbott

Our Lady and St John Roman Catholic Church: Fr. Michael Edwards

Salvation Army: Captain Teresa Harris

United Reformed Church: Rev'd. David Bunney

St. Andrew's Church, Gt. Cornard: Rev'd. Paul Hocking

St. John's Methodist Church: Rev'd. David Parkes

Holy Trinity and St. Catherine's Churches, Long Melford: Rev'd. Chris Sansbury

All Saints' Church: Rev'd. Lionel Simkins

St. Gregory's Church: Rev'd. Lawrence Pizzey

Cornard Baptist Fellowship: Pastor Chas Watson

The year started with a prayerful concern over potential **Youth Outreach**. A steering committee was set up with a view to possibly employing a **Youth Worker**.

Plans were discussed for a picnic, added on to the Sudbury Festival on Friar's Meadow, in July, with the possibility of an Open Air Service on The Croft to follow.

A Barn Dance was arranged as part of the Harvest celebration, with the **26th Combined Service in Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford**. (Barn Dance subsequently cancelled due to lack of support.)

Springlands was a major concern, with a proposed 2200 new residents moving into an unchurched area.

School, under the umbrella of Churches Together.

It was hoped to establish a Worship Centre, possibly in the Community Centre.

The **Chilton Master Plan**, centred on St. Mary's Church was being discussed with Babergh District Council, concern being expressed about the industrial development encroaching on the church.

There was discussion about a possible new cemetery site at Newman's Green, or adjacent to St. Mary's Church.

Links with the **Town Twinning** organisation were explored with a view of linking with the churches in Sudbury's twin towns.

St Gregory's Church held an afternoon service on October 10th for sportsmen, instigated by Sudbury Bowling Club.

The Church of Our Lady and St John celebrated its Centenary on 9th December.

This is a summary of the folder of notes kindly loaned by Peter Heard, covering the years 1989-93.

1994

Four United Worship Services were planned for this year.

Springlands Sunday School meeting at All Saints' Middle School, was affiliated to the Crusader Group. Children's work began with two groups, one for under 7/ 8-year olds and one for older, later another for 12s-14s was added. Suffolk County Council was supporting this work but more funds and volunteers needed.

Proposed Youth Worker: The Task Group distributed a leaflet 'Sudbury and District Christian Youth' to all church leaders within the local schools' catchment areas. The aim being to secure a commitment from the churches to support the project and pledge a financial contribution towards 50% of the £25,000 required to employ a Youth Worker. As a result, £8,000 was pledged by churches and some individuals; this was thought to be enough to start planning. This publicity had brought various applications for the job! An evening of prayer was arranged. The Salt Cellar was available as a base, at nominal rent.

Sudbury Celebrations: It was agreed that £100 should be contributed to the town's proposed celebration of the International year of the Family and in 1995, 50 years of peace in Western Europe.

Requests were received from:

The St Matthews Society, who has recently purchased Crofton House, providing homes for 10 men. They would like a representative on their steering group.

The Positive Thinking Network would like a representative concerning their need for transport.

South Suffolk Victim Support Group; Mrs Rosemary Sharp's offer to represent CTiS was gratefully accepted. SSVSG then said that they needed a member of the clergy.

Sudbury Baptist Church: Rev'd Jim Crockett was welcomed as the new Minister. Also David Norwood at **Cornard Baptist Fellowship**.

Proposed Chilton Housing Development. There may be 170 homes for 500-600 people and a Community Centre.

Police Consultation Group. Mrs Rosemary Sharp represented CTiS on this group which monitors crime, public disorder, traffic and any other issues of concern.

1995

Springlands held a Fun Day for 67 children which was very successful. The regular group of 18 x 12s-14s was hard to run, as discipline was a problem.

Sunday worship was transferred to Monday evenings due to closure of the Community Centre.

Springlands Task Force, chaired by Geoff Abbott and comprising 10 others met in October with the agreed aim of:

A) To promote Christian work on Springlands and the immediate environment and to seek to share the Gospel with all age groups, so that we trust that we will ultimately see our second aim:

B) The establishment of an ecumenical church in the area.

The objectives were:

a) To explore all possibilities for Christian activity.

b) To oversee and support the established Sunday School.

c) To try and establish local Housegroups.

d) To consider employing a leader.

e) To liaise with local authorities about the possibility of a specific Church/Community building.

f) To liaise with local churches, Ministers' Fraternal and CTiS.

Sudbury Christian Youth. A Trust was set up, comprising Rev'ds Lionel Simkins, Chris Sansbury, David Parkes and Geoff Abbott. The Trust Deed was sent to the Charities Commission for their approval and registration and a Youth Worker's job description had been drawn up. Following interviews, there was a unanimous decision to offer the position to Mike Forrester who accepted, employment to commence on 01/09/1995.

Accommodation to be at the Salt Cellar, Gainsborough Street.

Holiday Club. This was a great success with an average attendance of 110 children and 250 at the barbecue. 80% of Springlands estate children attended.

Weekend Thought. This weekly column in the Suffolk Free Press is written by a wide range of local Christians and seemingly appreciated by the readership. The organiser, David Cackett, thought it was time for a new approach and would like someone to take over from him. He had recently suffered a heart attack and a letter of good wishes and thanks for all his work was sent on behalf of CTiS, by Rev'd Christopher Sansbury.

1996

Springlands. Ian Copeman is now a Regional Crusader Trainer and, with Briar Skinner, is planning the 1996 Holiday Club, on a reduced budget from 1995. The Crusader groups have 40-50 attendees and major costs are met by Suffolk County Council.

Suffolk Churches Together. A Festival of Prayer is planned for 8th June in Stowmarket and CTiS was planning a preparatory event in the preceding week.

Sudbury Christian Youth. Prayer cards are available for distribution where appropriate. The review of the first six months activity has been very pleasing and Mike Forrester has contacted head teachers of all local schools and has visited all middle and upper schools, giving lessons. He is also now on the local drugs action team. A replacement vehicle is required and the Salt Cellar property needs some repairs. Most costs will be covered by grants.

Lent Groups. 11 groups met with between 6-20 people in each. A better denominational mix would be beneficial and more leader training for next year.

Methodist Recorder. Rev'd David Parkes has been asked to write an article about ecumenical activities in Sudbury for this national publication.

Town Twinning. Several CTiS members are involved with Sudbury's twin towns. Rev'd David Bunny with Hoxter, Germany, and Canon John Nurser with Claremont, France.

St Matthews Housing. Crofton House has eight male residents and one female, one man saved from a prison sentence. They are a strong community, eating together and fund raising through plant sales and car washing. The Trust is planning to provide another unit in Ballingdon later this year for 16-18 year olds.

New members. Mike Woodcraft from Suffolk Road and Chris Martin from St John's were welcomed to the Forum.

Ways Forward. 5 objectives were determined:

- 1) Worship: Good Friday witness; early Easter Sunday morning event; open-air service; youth service; enquiry of disaffected Christians.
- 2) Fellowship: Expansion of Covenant; Prayer breakfast expansion; communications officer appointment; Churches pilgrimage; Sunday morning youth get-together; youth service.
- 3) Mission; Mission; Use of St. Peter's church, ? Alpha Course; Brains Trust evening, youth service; holiday club; prayer triplets; visiting newcomers.
- 4) Caring; Provision of finance, child care, clothing, listeners. A community survey to identify need. Christmas Fellowship for housebound/lonely.
- 5) Study; History of Sudbury churches. Study groups. Alpha course.

Quarterly CTiS church services. These continue at various churches. A request was made for 'proper hymns' countered by the Chairman stating that we need to be willing to share each other's style of worship.

AGM. Officers elected: Chair: Rev'd David Bunney

Treasurer: Peter Heard

Secretary: Bernie Moulton

Outgoing Chairman's Report.

'During the past year we have certainly maintained our traditions, and perhaps the first question we need to ask is, 'Does a remark like that condemn us?' It's one thing for a traditional church to do that, but we must beware if CTiS just another organisation to be kept going for its own sake. And of course, it's always possible to use CTiS, not as a means of bringing the churches together but as a means of keeping them apart by saying, in effect, 'We're all good friends so there's nothing regrettable about our divisions.' Unquestionably, you, the churches of Sudbury are, to my Long Melford eyes, marvellously better friends than when I first knew you; but if you're all concentrated in the historic centre of the town and competing for the same clientele, is that what our Lord meant when He prayed that His disciples might be one? I won't try to answer that explicitly now, but I suggest you keep that in mind as I note various events of the year.

The united services have maintained their tradition well and whatever may be said, there is no doubt that (as in 1066 and all that) they are a Good Thing and long may they remain so! It's good to know that things are happening on the Youth and Crusaders fronts, both despite very considerable difficulties. The important thing in both areas is that we know what we're aiming at and are determined to make real progress in that direction. Lent may seem a long way ahead and while it seems right for Long Melford to run its own activities, I am sure that it is right for the Sudbury town churches to do something jointly, making sure it contains a clear reference to the basic Christianity that we all have in common, noting the differing and particular ways we put that into practice in our churches. It was good too, to hear of the Christmas event in the Town Hall; this and other socially concerned items on our agenda show a genuine awareness amongst CTiS. I've put in my notes, 'Sadly, no Holiday Club' but here again one must ask the question, 'Do children see these clubs as a church activity with the aim of introducing them to church, or just as something put on for their amusement?' Finally, I am quite sure it will be CTiS' finest hour if we end up planting an ecumenical church at Springlands – always assuming there is enough development there to justify it. If there is, then I believe two things should happen. One is that one of the Free Churches should move out there and secondly that there should be enough Anglican involvement in it for no Anglican to feel that he has defected to another denomination.. I know that's all for the future and I can't offer any blueprint; let's remember that our Lord prayed that His disciples might be one, which means we can't just prance off and do our own thing regardless, and also that He prayed that we might be one so that the world may believe.

Rev'd Christopher Sansbury 17/09/1996

1997

Welcome was extended to Rev'd Andrew Platt (All Saints' Church) and farewell to Capt. T. Harris (Salvation Army), moving to Norwich. A joint service with All Saints' and the URC was held to dedicate a plaque on the Vicarage wall, commemorating Samuel Crossman on his 350th anniversary.

Crofton House. Has a full complement of residents with varying needs. Some referring agencies do not respect the admission criteria which causes unnecessary problems for all concerned. The new building in Ballingdon was opened (The Foyer) in February.

Lent Course. 'Called to be One' looking towards common goals of renewal mission and unity. Six groups, 50 people in total, met in peoples' homes across the CTiS area. Tesco's agreed to a Good Friday service being held there as long as no literature was distributed. It was hoped that a choir or band could be formed for further events. The following **survey** resulted from the Lent groups:

Survey. (The full content is retained in an accessible folder).

400 questionnaires were circulated to 12 CTiS churches and the 47 returned were analysed by Anne Holloway of the Friends Meeting House. The participating churches were: Gt Waldingfield/Acton (C of E), Salvation Army, St Gregory's (C of E), St Andrew's, Gt Cornard (C of E), Holy Trinity, Long Melford (C of E), Sudbury Baptist Church, St John's Methodist, Suffolk Road Church, Quakers, United Reformed Church, All Saints Church (C of E).

Question 1: Should the united services be held in the morning/afternoon, rather than in the evening? **Majority** neither agreed nor disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Question 2: Should there be a united service specifically for children in a neutral venue? **Majority** strongly agreed.

Question 3: Suggestions for joint activities. **Majority** chose monthly study groups and meetings for those enquiring about Christianity.

Question 4: What kind of Christian presence should be seen on Springlands? **Majority** chose a church 'plant', then a mother and toddler group.

Question 5: Should Harvest Festival (and maybe other festivals) be a united celebration? **Majority** strongly agreed.

Question 6: Should a free second-hand furniture storehouse/distribution centre be set up? **Majority** strongly agreed. (Since the questionnaire was circulated, the NEEDZ organisation had started, in effect meeting this need.)

Question 7: Should hospital transport be made available to any who need it? **Majority** strongly agreed.

Question 8: Should there be a Home Help/Befriending scheme for any in need? **Majority** agreed.

Question 9: Should there be after-school help for parents and children? **Majority** agreed.

Question 10: Should there be a) a new inter-church magazine, b) a CTiS insert in current magazines, c) a regular article in the local press. **Majority** favoured b), an insert.

Youth work. Mike Forrester reported 'almost too much work'. Outreach is fruitful but communication with the churches needs to improve, possibly through a designated person. Upgrading of the Salt Cellar building continued causing accommodation problems for the Forrester family. Fortnightly Saturday dinners are popular, also a doughnut evening. There is a need for somewhere that will accept drug addicts and alcoholics. This issue was referred to the Ministers' Fraternal. The 2nd birthday celebration was held on October 24th at St John's church.

Town Twinning. 12 French visitors from Clermont attended St Gregory's morning service in May, with some translation. Several climbed the tower to enjoy the views. 60 Sudbury visitors plan to go to Hoxter in September, when Rev'd David Bunney will preach in the German church, in German.

United Services. These continued quarterly; generally well received but some criticism of musical styles continued. The Carol Service speaker was Rev'd John Stroud from St Nicholas Hospice.

Chairman's Annual Report.

'in reviewing the year, the broad sweep is often clear but the detail makes the difference. For example, in an article I wrote for the Suffolk Free Press, a misprint 'compared God's glory with the fullness of earthbound humanity'. What I actually wrote 'compared God's glory with the Dullness of humanity'. It makes a difference!

The General Confession seeks forgiveness for what we have *not* done. This report does the same. The united services have continued to draw members together in worship and the question of differing expectations and styles has been carefully addressed. The visit of the Bishop to the URC and the Moderator to Holy Trinity created a pleasing parallel. The theme of Pilgrimage echoed national interest in the 1400th anniversaries of the contributions of Sts Augustine and Columba. Some ideas came from this but most were quickly sidelined.

'The Cross comes to Tesco's' made its own statement and we have been invited to return next Good Friday. The music of that evening was much appreciated and I hope will happen again next year. The organ at URC will be restored by then and I offer to host that evening. A prayer vigil was held in St Peter's on Election Day, deeply appreciated by a small number of people. I remind you of a resolution to be made to the new committee: to enquire as to whether residential and nursing homes were adequately served at Christmas time. We need to ensure that church contributions were neither duplicated nor missed. I am passing on information on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the 1998 Lent Course 'Hope in a Time of Change'. I claim some credit for introducing regular meetings between the clergy and our MP, where mutual pastoral issues can be discussed. There have been some disappointments as well. I was sorry that the planned CTIS meeting with the General Election candidates was pre-empted by another organisation. My enquiries about clergy involvement in emergency planning have largely gone unanswered; similarly, approaches to some other organisations to share in their work, have often gone unheeded, despite the heartfelt pleas given to this meeting last year. It would be wrong to claim I have achieved all I set out to do in the past year. I shall be pleased to pass on the mantle, especially as my request for a three-month sabbatical next summer has been granted. I can retire with my very sincere thanks to the officers who have looked after things, also for your confidence in

me with a plea for forgiveness for what I haven't done and my good wishes to the new committee before whom I lay my shortcomings. Rev'd David Bunney 16/09/1997.

1998

Guidelines dated 19/02/1998.

Churches Together in Sudbury and District (CTiS&D) brings together those who acknowledge with joy their membership of one another in Christ and His ministry which we share. CTiS&D seeks the help of the Holy Spirit so that in working together the loving purposes of God may be served.

CTiS&D seeks:

- 1) in FAITH to be a forum for Christian belief and thought, providing an opportunity to listen and to talk.
- 2) to express FELLOWSHIP in God through united worship, working and meeting together.
- 3) to participate in CARING for the whole well-being of all the people in the community.
- 4) to engage in MISSION locally and to support mission in all the world.

CTiS&D shall have:

- 1) a FORUM, consisting of up to four members of each congregation (one of whom would normally be the priest, minister or leader), meeting not less than three times a year to oversee the whole activity and to decide on matters of principle.
- 2) OFFICERS, elected by Forum at the annual general meeting, consisting of a Chairman, vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to address questions of administration and finance and report to Forum. The vice-Chairman would normally succeed to the chairmanship at the following AGM.
- 3) ACTION GROUPS, as agreed by Forum, to address specific purposes as the need arises and which may co-opt where appropriate.
- 4) The priests, ministers and church leaders meet together regularly in parallel with Forum.

Representatives on Action and Other Groups.

Christian Aid:	Alan Stephens
CT in Suffolk:	Ann Holloway
Public Address system:	Chris Martin
Service Planning Group:	Virginia Bonner
Holiday Club :	Chris Rowe
Police Forum:	David Bunney
Smag:	David Bunney
Springlands:	Ian Copeman
Sudbury Christian Youth:	Andrew Platt
Town Twinning:	David Bunney

Millennium plans. These started to come together, with one year to the deadline, not to be repeated for 1000 years! Nationally, churches agreed on a two minute silence at 11.58 pm and to herald the start of 2000 by lighting candles. CTiS&D were planning to distribute candles in a fireproof container to every household, with a copy of the Millennium Resolution. These as a gift from the Christian Church marking the 1000 years since BC became AD. Cost would be 30p each.

It was thought important that CTiS&D should have a visible presence in the town celebrations, individual churches coming together with banners onto the Market Hill for the midnight laser show. All possible church bells to be rung at noon on January 1st and a 'People's Service' held in St Peter's that afternoon.

Holy Week. The second Good Friday service at Tesco's was planned with a rendition of Stainer's 'Crucifixion' by a CTiS&D choir at Lavenham church in the evening.

Oberammergau. Mrs Barbara Tyler arranged an inclusive coach trip to the 10-yearly Passion Play in the Austrian Tyrol, for which 40 bookings had been made for 2000.

Banner. It was agreed that a CTiSD banner would be a good advertisement for use in public gatherings. A competition for a design was suggested, to be offered to Sudbury Christian Youth and the churches. Results to be displayed at the September AGM.

Crusaders. 35-40 children (5-12 years) attend most Mondays, mostly from non-church backgrounds. Activities aim to teach about Jesus through singing, craft and games.

On Wednesdays, 20 (11-15 years), of whom about a 1/3 are girls, enjoy discussions on life experiences and basketball.

More funds will be needed as local Council support will be halved in September. It would be counter-productive to raise subs. to cover deficit.

A weekly prayer group has started on Springlands with a view to outreach, initially to those known through Crusaders and coffee mornings.

Holiday Club. The theme was 'The Really Wild Bunch' based on a jungle theme with appropriate decorations and activities to create a fun time and atmosphere.

Sudbury Christian Youth. Mike Forrester reported enthusiastically of his work at 45, Gainsborough Street and in the community. Funding for the video project has not been forthcoming and earnest prayer was requested for this. The Police and Health Authority are thoroughly behind the work but cannot offer much financial support. More awareness and support is urgently needed from the churches and in practical terms, adult help in the kitchen would be appreciated.

New Minister. Rev'd Augusto Giron from Guatemala was appointed as Minister of St John's Methodist Church.

Chairman's Report.

It was a great surprise to be asked to take on this duty as my knowledge of the work of CTiS&D was very limited and this was a new experience.

My wife and I have always supported unity within our churches and were brought closer to this in Sudbury with the signing of the Covenant Document in January 1997. This showed the great support for Christian unity in our area. As Christians we all have similar beliefs but over the last 2000 years, splits have moved us apart; some of these leading to dreadful wars and persecution. Today, we all have our likes and dislikes in the way we worship but I believe it is important that we accept these differences and work together as we approach the Millennium and prepare for the future.

Last year brought changes to CTiS&D. A particular loss was Rev'd David Parkes from St John's Methodist Church. His dedication and support was always there and although I only knew him for a short while, he became a great friend. His successor, Rev'd Augusto Giron and family were made very welcome at St John's, along with many from CTiS&D. Many have been very supportive this year and I thank you all. One important part of our progress forward was the agreement of the CTiS&D Forum Guidelines. My simple and short version reads:- **TOGETHER – we as Christians work for the loving purpose of God, locally and in all the world, as we share our worship, talk, listen and plan for the future.** Our aim this year should be to build up our strength by working to these Guidelines. I ask you all to study them and become active in your support. We are all different and each of us has particular talents. Please use your skills, put forward your ideas, volunteer to make commitments, increase your knowledge of CTiS&D and its activities, not only within your own church but to the people in and around Sudbury. Help is required from everyone. I am looking forward to a busy year – it will be successful if we all share in the work which has to be done.

1999

(During this years' Forum minutes, several references are made to reports being 'in the Minutes Book', which is not amongst the records I have. MT)

Millennium plans. Throughout the year, prayer and fundraising took place and enough candles with literature explaining the Christian significance of the Millennium, were purchased for delivery to every home in Sudbury. Special services were planned in most churches and a United People's Service was planned for 2nd January in St Peter's Church, at the request of the Town Council. The Millennium Resolution was to be included:

**'Let there be
Respect for the earth
Peace for its people
Love in our lives
Delight in the good
Forgiveness for past wrongs
And from now on
A NEW START'**

Easter plans. A successful third service was held at Tesco's on Good Friday. In the evening, a united choir performed the cantata 'Olivet to Calvary' at the URC.

Public services. As part of the Babergh Leisure weekend, a CTiS&D service was held in Belle Vue Park on 22nd August. Many people were involved in the planning and delivery to about 300 people in the park. Thanks were expressed and received, particularly from the Babergh Administration Officer, Suzanne Slinn.

A Harvest Festival was planned for 2nd October, outside the Town Hall but there is no record of this having taken place.

Building plans. Babergh District Council plans for 800 new houses on the outskirts of Sudbury were laid before the Forum by Chairman Bob Bird. It was unanimously agreed that

the churches must be involved from the very early stages, with provision for a place of worship as a priority. It was noted that the present churches are not where new residents are and we must move to the new centres of population and not expect people to seek us out. It was agreed to seek advice from CTi England on how best to action this, using their experience from other places.

Salvation Army. The new building was scheduled for opening on 24th April, with a special commissioning service the following day.

CTiS&D Banner. The winning entry for the CTiS&D banner (below) was unanimously approved. Mike Forrester was thanked for putting his skills to such good use. The cost for producing the banner was covered by two anonymous donors who have already been thanked. It was used to good effect to advertise the Belle Vue Park Peoples' Service.



Hospital plans. David Bunney attended a meeting of Suffolk Health Authority to hear about the proposed Community Health Facility.

Upgrading of St Leonards and Walnuttree Hospitals would be difficult and expensive and the new site (Peoples'Park) was purchased in 1987. Delay caused by many administrative problems caused loss of the ring-fenced finance. This in turn created more problems meaning that any planning will be a long, slow process.

Identified areas of health needs in Sudbury include a higher than national proportion of elderly people, with less resources and a high ratio of deaths under 75, despite lower incidences of cancer. Figures for outpatient attendance and emergency admissions are also high. The suggested best option is for a better equipped local facility, under GP supervision with good nursing support.

This is not just about buildings but also about provision of services, with emphasis on getting it right. A Primary Care Group experiment will run for 6 months from April 2000, with GPs taking over responsibility for using Walnuttree Hospital as they think best. Dr Hayhow will be the lead GP. The outcome will be evaluated and the result incorporated into future planning.

Tim Yeo MP, summed up the afternoon saying that after 3 hours, we did not even have a date for the next meeting!

Sudbury Christian Youth. A new business plan and forecast was sent to all the churches as the present charity ends on 31st August, to be 'reborn' on 1st September.

Prayer for support and courage for the Forresters and their team was led by Lily Risley.

Mike Forrester spoke of problems with 13-year olds coming to Edens already drunk and an identity card system had been introduced. He also asked that any questions be asked directly of him rather than people listening to gossip and rumour.

Election of officers. Chairman for 2000: Chris Martin. Secretary: Ann Holloway willing to continue. Treasurer: Peter Heard willing to continue.

External group reports.

Police Reports: Regular meetings between police and community are essential to the current style of 'Community Policing'. Sudbury is a relatively crime-free area with burglaries and street offences causing most concern.

Substance Misuse Action Group (SMAG): Alcohol is seen as a far greater and more widespread problem than drugs. School Governors can be a help in this sphere.

Town Twinning: A party from Sudbury visited Hoxter in May where Rev'd Augusto Giron preached at the church of St Kilian on Trinity Sunday.

Friends from Clermont are expected in Sudbury at the end of October with a church service to be held at St Gregory's church on the Sunday evening.

Chairman's annual report.

Last year, I quoted from our CTIS&D Guidelines as follows:

'TOGETHER – we as Christians work for the loving purposes of God, locally and in all the world, as we share our worship, talk, listen and plan for the future.'

I am sure most will agree that our prayers this year have been answered and that this last year has been very successful.

I have never before belonged to an association where so many members have been so helpful and enthusiastic. Many volunteers have come forward and many suggestions have been made.

After the Christian Aid Service, Jo Jones, the Regional Co-ordinator she had never experienced such a group of churches working so well together.

The Open Air Service at Belle Vue Park was a wonderful experience with so many people of all ages attending and so many from the churches helping. The support received from the District and Town Councils was also a great step forward.

We have set ourselves many tasks for the future but I feel confident that everyone here this evening and many from all our churches will work hard to ensure that these will be successful.

I see you all as my friends. Thank you for all your work during the year.

2000

Millennium Candles. Local distribution had gone well and amounted to 20% of all those distributed in the whole of Suffolk.

Sudbury Christian Youth. Mike Forrester asked for prayer and financial support for a Youth Alpha course at a total cost of £680. It was agreed as a sign of our united Christian ministry: LET'S DO IT = LET'S PAY FOR IT ALL! Sadly, later in the year, Mike Forrester resigned as Youth Leader for personal reasons.

Funds were also agreed for the Crusaders affiliation fee.

Lent Groups. A course centred on the Stations of the Cross was offered by the diocese.

United Services. Tesco's agreed to a 4th Good Friday service on their premises when 500 palm crosses were handed out.

A Christian Aid service was planned for 14th May at St John's Church.

The Ministers' Group were to arrange a Millennium Pentecost service.

A further successful open air service entitled 'Praise the Lord Together' was held in Belle Vue Park on 9th July. It included a dance by the St John's Church Dance Group, drama, 'The Lost Son' by the All Saints' Drama Group and an address given by Rev'd Norma Cole of St Andrew's Church, Gt. Cornard.

The Town Council gave consent to a further Harvest Festival service outside the Town Hall, following last year's successful event.

Ideas. a) 5-a-side football competition planned for 8th July at Gt Cornard football ground. b) Christian Bookshop in Sudbury. c) Passion Play in 2001. d) CTIS&D badges. e) Fundraising Quiz evening on 15th April. f) Holiday Club plans. Proposed dates: 14-18th August with the theme: Go for Gold.

Publicity. In the past year 20 press notices and one feature were issued to local press, radio and television. Inspiration is needed to make these releases more interesting and newsworthy, with more illustrated follow up reports.

The banner is only used for major events in Belle Vue Park so more large posters may encourage people to events.

Reports. Chris Martin gave a detailed report of the Bishops Stortford Passion Play, with a view to putting on a version in Sudbury in 2002. He had a positive meeting with the police about the traffic control required over a two hour period while the action moved around the town.

Sue Brotherwood (Town Clerk) was also very positive, seeing it as a real benefit to the town and a useful discussion about sites took place.

Mr Martin stressed that a definite decision about whether or not to proceed must be taken at the November Forum.

The decision to go ahead was made with agreement to set up an organising committee to work on an agreed script.

Town Twinning. On 20th October, the 20th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship between Hoxter and Sudbury was celebrated with a re-affirmation ceremony and reception at the Town Hall. A bi-lingual service of commemoration was held at the URC in the evening.

Welcome. A welcoming letter was sent to Fr. Peter Rollings on his appointment to the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. John.

2001

CTiS&D Officers. The year began with Chris Martin as Chairman, no Vice-Chairman, no Secretary and Peter Heard continuing as Treasurer.

Churches were urgently requested to pray and broadcast the need for two vital posts to be filled as soon as possible, in order that the work may progress.

Lent Course. A series entitled 'Behold the Cross' was introduced by Rev'd Andrew Platt. It looks at the Easter story through the eyes of six Biblical people: Isaiah, Mary, Peter, Barabbas, the Centurion, and Joseph of Arimathea. The course was deemed successful and the small profit from the sale of booklets was donated to The Strongest Link Mission.

Easter. Another successful service was held at Tesco's on Good Friday with a rendition of Stainer's 'Crucifixion' at St John's Church in the evening. The standard of singing was commended as very good.

It was noted that changes will be required for 2002 in view of the Passion Play, due to be performed on Easter Saturday.

Covenant. At the May Forum, a new covenant to work together was signed but it was felt that enthusiasm had waned. It was suggested that there is a need for greater unity, with Church Leaders attending and maybe a new Covenant after the Mission in October.

Ministers' Meetings. These do not aim to be a CTiS&D executive committee but a meeting to get to know one another better and to share and support each other. (A later comment suggested that more ministers could attend CTiS&D Forums.) Tim Yeo MP had met with some to discuss possible VAT exemption on church repairs. A decision will not be reached by the EU until 2003 but an interim grant scheme of VAT reduction to 5% on work undertaken from 1st April 2001 is being put into place. It was explained that full VAT had to be paid, with the reduction claimed after completion.

In November a letter was sent to the Ministers, from the Forum, outlining the urgent need for more participation if the work of CTiS&D was to continue. Six recommendations were made to help facilitate closer involvement, despite what was recognised to be full time involvement with their own churches. The background to this looming crisis was the lack of officers, with no volunteers coming from the churches to fill the posts of Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary. There was recognition that clergy and lay people are all busy and that many of the clergy signatories to the Ecumenical Covenant (1992) had moved away.

Suggestions for change included:

- a) Possibility of each church taking turns to provide a Chairman or nominee for a year, or even a single meeting.
- b) Assigning tasks to ad hoc working groups from across the churches to lessen the burden on the Chairman.
- c) Division of the secretarial tasks into separate roles; eg: minute taking, correspondence, publicity.
- d) Leaders being present when decisions need to be made.

Changes in what CTiS&D should be doing may include:

- a) Working more together to reach out to the young people, churched and unchurched, of our town. eg: Getting more involved with the work of Eden's.
- b) Working more together on social issues.
- c) Reaching in, by socialising more and studying together to further better relationships and understanding, thus reducing fear and suspicion of each other. Leading to....
- d) Getting to know and like each other better so that people can see we really are all Christians.

'No-one at Forum wants CTiS&D to die but it seems wounded. We are looking to the Church Leaders, under God, for the way forward. All comments and suggestions gratefully received, even if it means starting from scratch.'

Recommendation from the Review Group. For a trial period:

a) Forums to be held twice a year, open to all with the main item to be of general interest. One Forum to include the AGM and election of officers.

b) The setting up of a Coordinating Team or Enabling Group to meet quarterly, twice immediately preceding the two Forums. Composition: Chairman and Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, Press Officer and one representative from each church (or deputy).

Church ministers invited to decide how they should be included, all, or as a representative number.

This group to have the power to co-opt.

Function:

1) To report to and plan the Open Forums and to manage the core activities of CTiS&D. (A list of these to be prepared eg: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, United Services).

2) To agree special and 'one-off' activities and to appoint Working groups to implement these.

c) Appointments. If no officer can be found, each member church in turn be required to take responsibility.

Crusaders and Holiday Club. Crusaders meets on Springlands at All Saints' Middle School and at Cornard Middle School. A meeting was held with their chief executive, Matt

Summerfield, to discuss the possibility of Ian Copeman's work in schools coming under Crusaders' supervision.

Holiday Club was based on Ground breakers' 'Bob the Builder'. Chris Rowe, the organiser, received an award for her work from Babergh District Council and was congratulated on this.

Picnic and Praise in the Park. Held in Belle Vue Park on 18-19th August with barbecue. Marquee provided by Babergh District Council free of charge.

Harvest Service. Again held outside the Town Hall on 22nd September, led by Rev'd David Bunney with Rev'd John Fieldgate (newly appointed Vicar of Acton and Great Waldingfield Churches) invited to take part.

Strongest Link Mission. This was held, possibly in October, but there is no record of it having taken place.

General Election Meeting. This was held on 23rd May, on behalf of CTiS&D and United Nations with local candidates from all main political parties present.

Churches Together in England Forum. Ann Holloway, representing Suffolk CT, was one of 300 Christians at Swanwick in July. She found the persistence of denominational labelling frustrating but the overall message was 'What next?'

She felt a disappointment with Sudbury, where, despite a lot being done together, our individual church magazines and notices could much more reflect and encourage one another. Do we continue to do things separately that could be done together? What next? What NOW? Where is the excitement?

2002

Easter Story. The biggest event of the year was held on Saturday, March 30th. It received good local press coverage and a piece in the Christian Herald (Press cuttings available to view.)

Outline:

12.00 noon: On the Croft: Jesus eats his last meal with his friends but can they all be trusted?

Facing agony in the Garden, they begin to desert him as soldiers arrive to arrest Jesus.

At the top of North Street: False accusations are made. Jesus declares he is the Christ but his enemies bay for his blood.

One friend denies knowing him and as the cock crows, weeps in sorrow.

Along North Street: On the way to Pilate's house the crowds ridicule Jesus and his friends, as dancers celebrate the feast.

St Peter's Sidegate: Judas tries to return the blood money. Pilate's wife has misgivings about Jesus but his condemnation seems inevitable.

Outside the Town Hall: Pilate hears the evidence against Jesus but a choice must be made. The crowd choose freedom for Barabbas and death for Jesus.

Down Market Hill: Jesus, carrying his cross, stumbles but receives loving help from Simon and other friends.

The Croft: Jesus, nailed to the cross, offers forgiveness to all who have harmed him and gives up his spirit to his Father God. Fear grips the crowd as news of dramatic events filter through. Jesus is buried.

The Croft: Is this the end? No, something unbelievable has happened. Jesus is ALIVE! Death has been defeated. Now there is hope for us all because of what God has done.

'Thine be the Glory' was then sung by a united choir and refreshments were served from a tent on The Croft.

The event was reviewed at the May Forum and considered to be a fine witness. 110 copies of the video were sold. The Roman Catholic Church was thanked for the use of their room and moral support. Chris Martin was thanked for heading up the project and his suggestion that it be repeated in 2004 was approved.

Tools with a Mission. Jack Norwood of the Baptist Church spoke of this work which recycles all kinds of otherwise obsolete tools for use in poorer countries. There is an overworked collection centre in Sproughton and Jack thought that Sudbury could be another collection point where donations could be renovated and despatched. He would welcome CTIS&D support.

Recommendations from the Review Committee. These had been circulated to members and were discussed. The next Forum would meet in September at the Roman Catholic Hall, at the invitation of Fr. Peter Rollings.

It was approved that the Co-ordinating Team should meet quarterly but not in the ½ hour before the Forum.

Alan Stephens wondered if this new format would solve the crisis currently being experienced but it was agreed to go ahead. Until a new Chairman was elected, the host church should supply a Chairman.

Crusaders' Youth Group. Ian Copeman reported that the Monday evening group at All Saints School was going well, hopefully with two new helpers coming soon. He intends to readvertise in the schools. Lunchtime groups at All Saints and Cornard Middle Schools also going well' hoping to start in two Primary Schools as well.

The grant from SCT used for bibles, materials and prizes.

Eden's Youth Centre. Paul Tamsett reported on 250 new members, some of whom are difficult, exhibiting all the problems that young people can have, 3 became Christians after the 'Get God' course. Interviews are underway for a new manager. Part of the building is to be rented to West Suffolk Befriending Service.

Beacon. This was lit on 3rd June by Rev'd David Bunney, to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Picnic and Praise in the Park. These were held on 24th/25th August. Music and a barbecue were provided. David Rout was a prominent helper and more support from church members would have been appreciated.

2003

CTiS&D Officers. Following the difficulties of last year, David Rout became Chairman and Rob McCarthy Secretary. Both decided to step down but were asked to continue for a further 3 months to allow time for new appointments.

Permanent financial signatories were appointed, namely Alan Stephens and Bob Bird. This to avoid the need to change when main officers changed.

Easter. A silent procession of witness was held on Good Friday. The route started at All Saints' Church, up Cross Street, Gregory Street and North Street to Market Hill. On Easter Saturday an event was held on the Market Hill: 'It's More than Hot Cross Buns,' In the evening, KATO in Concert was held in St Peter's Church, where a united service was held at 6.30 pm on Easter Sunday.

Town Twinning. A united service was held on Sunday 1st October to celebrate 20 years of friendship with Hoxter. This was a bi-lingual event led by Rev'd. David Bunney.

Praise in the Park. It was decided to concentrate on this one event on 17th August, which was a great success with worship, teaching and drama. Said to have been 'the best ever'.

Eden's. Mike Maidment reported membership of 350, with regular attendance of 40–65 on Friday and Saturday evenings. Many changes included: Hot food menu on Fridays. Live Christian bands on some Saturdays. Two worship groups of young Christians. Re-equipped video editing room. New main office. Old office now a music practice room. 'Rush' – a town-wide worship event. Community projects: litter clearing, crime awareness, and erection of new gates on the meadows. Mike introduced Stuart and Jude Ayling as the new Youth Work Managers who are hoping to start a Listening Ear service for those who want someone to talk to.

Crusaders. Prayer support requested as some parents seem to be opposed to their children attending.

Web Site. www.churchegetherinsudbury.netfirms.com Rob McCarthy reported that this is now active on a free host website.

Springlands Christian Fellowship. Is now meeting at Woodhall School, not the Tudor Centre.

God to the Rescue. This was a dramatic presentation of the Christmas Story, held on 7th December, in St Peter's Church, which despite a disastrous dress rehearsal, was excellent. 30 videos were sold at £10.

2004

From this date, the Enabling Group (consisting of CTiS&D officers and church representatives) came into being, meeting much more frequently than the public Forums. This record will only report Forum and other public activities.

Forum Speakers. Forums were held on

- a) 8th January,
- b) 25th March, Speaker Rev'd Malcolm Hill on the United Nations Conference to be held on 15th May, when Lord Phillips is one of the speakers.
- c) 9th June, Speaker John Dean of the United Bible Society, talking about his work in Romania and Madagascar. A collection of £30 was subsequently sent for this work.
- d) 8th September (AGM). Fr Peter Rollings spoke of his vision for a night shelter in Sudbury, having personal experience of the local need.
- e) 8th December, Speaker: Tim Ayrton, family community worker at Sudbury Baptist Church. He believes evangelism is more effective in the context of friendship and service than in street services and handing out tracts. He suggested courses in parenting, debt counselling, listening skills and relationships would be useful. Maybe a pregnancy crisis centre and a bookshop/tearoom in Sudbury?
- f) Teresa Bishop spoke of her recent appointment as Anglican Deanery Youth Co-ordinator and offered the new Diocesan Resource Centre based at All Saints' Church Hall. Videos, books and magazines may be borrowed locally for outreach work, instead of needing to travel to Ipswich for this facility.

Boat Festival. CTiS&D input was held on 10th July on the river bank of Friars Meadow. A drama of Jesus walking on the water was presented by All Saints Church but there were only 3 spectators and no boats. There was some confusion about date and time in the local press.

Praise in the Park. A more successful event, despite heavy rain causing the venue to be changed to Cornard Christian Fellowship on 18th July. 160 attended the service.

Prayer Breakfasts. It is hoped to continue at 8.00 am on Saturdays, with a continental style meal, followed by prayer until 9.30. Churches were asked to volunteer to host these valuable opportunities for prayer and fellowship.

Lenten Talks. These were led by Rev'd Andrew Platt at the Friends Meeting House.

Easter. Holy Trinity Church, Long Melford hosted a moving Son et Lumiere throughout Holy Week with a rendition of Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday. During the morning, a walk of witness was held around the town culminating in a tableau of the colours of the cross. The film 'The Passion of the Christ' was shown in a Colchester cinema during the week.

Bible Exhibition. This was arranged in Sudbury Library by Rev'd. David Bunney to mark the centenary of the Bible Society.

Jonathan Aitken. This was the major outreach initiative of the year. Mr Aitken, in 1992 the Minister of State for Defence, came on 16th October to speak in St. Peter's Church. He was introduced by Lord Phillips and spoke of how his jail sentence for perjury had led him into a deep Christian faith which he commended to his audience. The evening raised £276 for Mr Aitken's charity supporting prisoners and a surplus to costs of £95 was given to Eden's. There were favourable reports in the local press.

St Peter's Church. Liaison took place with the Friends of St Peter's (now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust), over how best CTiS&D could use this town centre, Christian building. Persistent efforts were made to have a notice board fixed outside the West door, listing all the active Churches in the town. This did not happen.

CTiS&D had a significant presence during the Sponsored Cycle Ride/ Mammoth Organ Recital day on 11th September, providing refreshments, a Christian bookshop, Traidcraft stall and a prayer corner, remembering this to be the anniversary of 9/11 terror attacks in New York.

December 9-16th saw the first festival of Christmas trees in the church.

Chilton Woods Development. A suggestion was made that the proposed church/ community centre be incorporated into the school's facilities. Car parking space would be needed. Sadness was expressed that the ecumenical venture at Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds was now entirely Anglican.

Clergy changes.

a) Andrew Platt retired to Beccles in April following a farewell supper. A CTiS&D letter was sent to the Diocese expressing how much Andrew had done for Sudbury and requesting that the distinctive evangelical churchmanship of all Saints' Church be maintained under its own full-time minister. Replies were received from Bp. Clive and Archdeacon John Cox explaining that there was a shortage of priests and it was possible that changes would need to be made.

b) Rev'd David Bunney (URC) moved to Bedford.

c) Rev'd Norma Cole (St. Andrew's, Gt. Cornard) moved to the Isle of Man.

Election of Officers for 2004/5.

Chairman: Roger Pullan. No vice chairman elected.

Secretary: Sheelagh Ruse

Treasurer: Peter Heard

2005

Open Forums.

a) 7th March. A welcome was given to Rev'd Simon Gill, Vicar of All Saints' Church. He has a professional background as a research manager in the chemical industry and served in the church at Frinton for 3 ½ years prior to this appointment.

He spoke of Changes in the world and England, Changes in the church, Challenges in the future and our Response. He stressed Diversity (people expect the church to meet their needs) and Strategy (by guidance of the Holy Spirit and common sense.)

b) 7th June. No specific speaker.

c) 7th September. No specific speaker. AGM. Election of officers:

Chairman: Roger Pullan. Vice Chairman: Chris Martin. Secretary: Jane Kohler.

Treasurer: Peter Heard.

D) 8th December. Plans for the 2006 presentation of the Easter Story drama were brought to the meeting. Prayer was requested for the organisation of such a big undertaking and also that the budget of £1200 would be met.

Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfasts. These continue from 8.00-9.30, supported by 25-30 each week, meeting in different churches. They are a real source of power through pray which God has graciously answered.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Meetings were held on each weekday at St. Gregory's, Suffolk Road, St. John's, Friends' Meeting House and the Roman Catholic Church, where a soup lunch was given and much appreciated. The week closed with a United Service on the Sunday evening at the Roman Catholic Church.

Easter. The recommended Lent Course, entitled 'Voices from the South' explored our reaction to disaster, poverty and need in South Asia and Africa. Very relevant in this post-tsunami year.

Good Friday. There was a silent Walk of witness from the Croft, along North Street to the Market Hill, followed by a short service outside the Town Hall with a very moving mime performance by Lisa Trend.

Sudbury on Show. In February, this bi-annual event showcased what Sudbury has to offer with stalls in St. Peter's Church and the Town Hall. CTiS&D and several individual churches were represented among over 150 organisations in the town and district.

Night Shelter. As an experimental forerunner to a Night Shelter, the Way Inn Soup Kitchen was opened on the evening of Good Friday, at the Roman Catholic Church. Led by Stuart Read from Bures with a company of 60 volunteers from most of the churches and other non-church people, the Kitchen is open on Monday and Saturday evenings from 7.00-9.00pm. Soup, rolls and a hot drink are available free of charge to any in need; the attendance ranges from 2-21 each evening.

Youth Matters. CTiS&D continues to support the Eden's Youth Project and also the work of Future Vision, a branch of Scripture Union. Through Future Vision, Ian Copeman works in the Middle and Upper Schools of our area, taking assemblies and lessons. In September, a mission was held in Sudbury and Gt. Cornard Upper Schools where the Girl Band 'Collective' made a real Christian impact. Expenses were funded by CTiS&D. Following this, Eden's ran a Youth Alpha Course attended by thirty years 9 and 10 students and regular Friday and Saturday night attendances increased dramatically. This posed some Health and Safety concerns and highlighted the difficulties of meeting the needs of different age groups. Mike Maidment (Eden's) held a 24 hour prayer and 12 hour fast, at the request of the young people. At 03.00 am, they toured the 9 churches of the town, praying for each one, on a bitterly cold night. There is a real longing to see revival. Their music group 'Engage' is visiting

all local churches on a bi-monthly basis. It is hoped that a listening/counselling service can be started in the near future.

The Passion of the Christ. This film was shown at the Quay Theatre on 31st May and a small group attended, prepared to offer support to any affected or challenged by the film.

Praise in the Park. Held on 17th July, with a picnic from 5.00 pm, followed by a service from 6.00-7.00 with hymns familiar to passers-by; 275 were reported to have been present. Young people's bands played from 8.30.

Police Chaplaincy. Brian Stenner has recently become Sudbury Police Chaplain. He asked for prayer for the new Inspector and several immediate issues, including a spate of handbag thefts. In seeking to raise awareness, he highlighted the needs of Crime Reduction Officers, Station Clerks, The ASBO Officer, the Response Units, our Traffic Warden and the officer whose daughter died just before Christmas.

Walnuttree Hospital. The Action Committee, WHAC, was set up in response to the Health Authority's proposals to close the hospital with seemingly inadequate alternative provision of care. CTiS&D's representative, Rev'd. Richard Titford regularly reported on the many discussions with Health Officials and Babergh District Council. Tim Yeo MP took the issue to Parliament, in conjunction with Lord Phillips and WHAC organised a protest march through the town. A church service was held on the Croft at 12.30 on 11th September. The situation remains unresolved.

Kettle and Fish. This is a venture led by CTiS&D, after generous liaison with Friends of St. Peter's, much prayer and planning. Held in St. Peter's Church on most Thursdays between 10.00-3.00. (to coincide with Sudbury's Market Day), it serves refreshments and provides a listening ear for any who need to share a concern, leading into a quiet prayer corner, if appropriate. There is a Christian Bookstall, a Fairtrade Stall, information about local Christianity and a welcome for tourists who come to visit the beautiful building. The venture was dedicated to God in a short service on 22nd September, led by Rev'd. Lawrence Pizzey.

Christmas Events. 2nd December; St. Nicholas Hospice lighting of the town Christmas tree.
4th December; United Service with St. Nicholas Hospice in St. Peter's.
6th December; Salvation Army Carol Concert in St. Peter's.
25th December: Way Inn Soup Kitchen open for Christmas lunch.

Changes in Church Leadership... Alan and Carol Frederiksen Salvation Army after 7 years in Sudbury have moved to Diss. Majors Lindsay and Margaret Anderson were welcomed in their place, for what, after 43 years and 20 house moves, will be their last year of ministry.

Rev'd. Jim Crockett and Sylvia are moving to Vine Baptist Church, Sevenoaks.

St. Andrew's, Gt. Cornard welcomed Rev'd Jamie Allen, Susie and family in November.

Suffolk Road Church regrets the retirement of their Pastor of 6 ½ years, Godfrey Miller, due to the illness of his wife Ginny, in October.

Two new member churches were welcomed into CTIS&D. Lavenham Parish Church and Living Branch Church, currently meeting in Sudbury Town Hall.

2006

Forums. 4 were held.

a) 22nd February. Speakers: Rev'd David Beales and his wife Janie of the DNA Church, Colchester. Their talk was entitled 'Have we lost the 18-30s?' DNA Church stands for Dynamic New Anglican Church and aims to connect and build relationships with people who were new to church or had dropped out. 26% of the church congregation is under age 11, 40% 11-18 years, 15% 20-40 years and 2% over 60. It was important to avoid Christian-ese jargon in conversations as this is immediately off-putting.

Important things about young adults are:

- 1) A real interest in spirituality and the connection between faith and life.
- 2) Relationships are a key concern.
- 3) They want to know and to be involved.
- 4) They do not want formality in church.
- 5) Important to give them formats that they are used to, eg: round table discussions.
- 6) Their life is full of choices, unlike previous generations, therefore what is offered needs to be irresistible.

The forum debated these thoughts in small groups.

b) 7th June. Speaker: John Toosey, Trustee of the Lyn Berwick Trust, founded in 1999. Lyn suffers from severe physical disabilities yet pursues her dream of building houses to enable the profoundly disabled to have a holiday. Already completed and in use, one house is at East Harling, Norfolk and a second in Scotland on land donated by the Duchy of Hamilton. Photographs were circulated and much admired. The aim is for a third house to be built in the West Country.

The Forum Discussion centred on 'Reaching Out to Families' led by Tim and Joy Ayrton. Exercises in listening skills were followed by news that Suffolk County Council is prepared to fund volunteer training in running parenting courses. Several local head teachers had invited Tim and Joy to offer these courses in schools and help would be needed.

c) 14th September. This Forum includes the AGM. (*Annual Report reviewed at end of year's record. MT*)

Mr Anthony Wheeler, an Elder of the URC, traced the history of Christ Church from 1616, when the first minister was appointed. It had been part of 'Churches Together' since 1662, when the URC forerunner had a strong association with All Saints' Church. The then Vicar, Samuel Crossman, took services in both churches until he was dismissed from the Anglican Church as a dissenter. However, he remained a rent-free tenant of the Vicarage which now bears a plaque of commemoration.

Election of Officers for 2006/7:

Chairman: Roger Pullan (Suffolk Road)

Vice Chairman: Malcolm Offord (All Saints')

Secretary: Jane Kohler (Holy Trinity)

Treasurer: Peter Heard (Sudbury Baptist)

Publicity and Link with Town Council Steering Committee and Friends of St. Peter's:
Chris Proffitt (URC)

Prayer Breakfast Organiser: Eleanor Ridge (Sudbury Baptist)

Communications Officer: Malcolm Snow (St. Gregory's)

Representative on CT in Suffolk and the Way Inn Soup Kitchen: Sheelagh Ruse (Quakers)

Kettle and Fish Refreshment Team Leader: Jean Willings (All Saints')

d) 6th December. A presentation on 'The Future of Marriage' was given by Rev'd Jamie Allen (St. Andrew's, Gt. Cornard). This reflected the sad decline in church marriages, 68% now being performed in a variety of secular premises.

At one time, the parish church was the focal point of the community and people often say 'We were married in this church.' Not only was this their recognition of a connection with the church but also that the church had a connection with them; people who would pray for them and to whom they could turn if the need arose.

As marriage weakens, society weakens, as depicted in soap operas on television; there's no story line in commitment. Christian marriage and the pledge of love – 'all that I am, I give to you' – is a reminder of God's love and His pledge to His church; it is about commitment, with clear rules and boundaries.

Discussion groups followed on the question, 'What can churches do to reverse the trend?' The outcome was that churches should go out, even to wedding fairs, to explain to couples what they can offer:

God's blessing

Plenty of seating, atmosphere and the wealth of community

Preparation for marriage, personal prayer and support.

A Task Group will be set up, meeting in January.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Host churches were: St. Andrew's, All Saints', Sudbury Baptist, St. John's Methodist and the Friends' Meeting House with a concluding service at the Salvation Army on the Sunday evening. Hymns and Bible readings were presented on an overhead projector which was very helpful. Churches from Bures to Lavenham, Braintree to Waldingfield were represented with 13 church leaders also present.

Easter. Ash Wednesday was marked with a traditional service at St. Gregory's Church. Rev'd Simon Gill designed a 3-session Lent Bible Study Course, in which 30+ people participated. The sharing and fellowship was greatly enjoyed.

Two open meetings were held; Fr Peter Rollings led a meditation on 'Christ our King' and Rev'd Jamie Allen on 'If God had a face, what would He look like?' with pictures from worldwide works of art. Both were much valued and engendered lively discussion.

A *Passover Supper* was held at the Catholic Church in Holy Week when over 70 people enjoyed the re-creation of the Jewish meal, with the prayers and traditional food as still celebrated in Orthodox Jewish homes.

Easter Story. This biggest project of the year was the second production of the dramatic pageant through the streets of Sudbury on Easter Saturday. An addition to the original script of 2002 was the Resurrection Scene. This gave a powerful ending which drew a very positive response from the spectators. It was felt that all the hard work done in preparation for this enormous production had been truly blessed by God. Eleanor Ridge was congratulated and she and Chris Martin were warmly thanked for all their input.

Kettle and Fish. A review of the first 9 weeks since opening was held, giving all 50 helpers opportunity to give their views.

In that time, money taken from refreshment sales had re-paid the set-up costs, borrowed from CTIS&D funds. Average attendance was 90 each week with the prayer corner well used and requests for prayer left. A very encouraging start, with projected opening on 37 Thursdays during the year.

Israeli/Palestinian Meeting. 6th May. The speakers were:

- a) Rev'd. Colin Chapman who for many years, taught at the Near East Seminary of Theology in Lebanon and has published two books on the subject.
- b) Lord Phillips of Sudbury who has visited the region several times in the last 18 months from a personal and political perspective.

A Middle Eastern meal was served to and greatly enjoyed by about 80 people, with 50 more attending for the talks.

Colin Chapman outlined two different Biblical approaches to the Arab/ Israeli problem.

a) *Restorationism & Dispensationalism*, known as Christian Zionism. This view holds that the land promise of the Abrahamic covenant still stands and therefore the Jewish people have a God-given right to the land today. The Old Testament return of the Jews from exile, the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 and the more recent return of many Jews from across the world are seen as signs of God's faithfulness and fulfilment of OT prophecies.

b) *Covenant Theology, (a Christ-centred Covenant of Grace)*. This takes the view that all in the Old Testament has to be interpreted in the light of the coming Kingdom of God in Jesus.

Lord Phillips described from first-hand experience and in distressing detail, the desperation of two nations clashing over their fiercely held views on their right to the land. Many Palestinians being dispossessed and some living in refugee camps since 1948.

A very thought provoking evening with no right answers, but valuable for our prayers.

Way Inn. Overseen by Stuart Read, the 1st anniversary and AGM was held on 20th April at the Roman Catholic Church with a speaker from the Emmaus Furniture Re-cycling Project in Colchester. By September, Way Inn was open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and

also offering take-away food packages and clothes. 60-70 volunteers supported this outreach and more would enable further expansion.

In December, Way Inn was in a transitional period, planning to move its base to the Salvation Army premises in January, with Peter Sebbage as the new manager. Stuart Read remained as Chairman.

WHAC. There was a vigorous response to the Primary Care Trust's plans. 5,500 cards were sent to the Secretary of State, 3,500 responded to the questionnaire and there were 11,500 signatures on the petition delivered to 10, Downing Street. Response from the PCT was delayed 3 times, due to very few being passed on and Tim Yeo MP challenged the Secretary of State to explain the reason for this. The responses were sent to the University of East Anglia, Norwich for assessment; the outcome was expected on 11th April.

As a result of 3 patients starting a judicial review into the planned closure of Walnuttree Hospital, the decision was made NOT to refer the PCT's proposals to the Secretary of State. WHAC remains vigilant on behalf of Sudbury.

Christmas. The Bishop family would produce lunch and tea on Christmas and Boxing Days for the lonely, homeless and those who would like to help. The necessary funding was raised by Graham Gilbert's Fun Run sponsorship (£350), a coffee morning at St. Gregory's (£180) and proceeds from a curry supper.

Clergy Changes. Majors Lindsay and Margaret Anderson retired, following Lindsay's serious operation earlier in the year. They were so grateful for the 'bubble-wrap' of prayer. Majors Neville and Yvonne Andrews from North Walsham, Norfolk were welcomed at the September Forum.

Hadyn Greenow of the Apostolic church moved to North Wales, with the thanks and good wishes of CTiS&D.

Peter and Karen Avery arrived in August and were also welcomed in September. They had moved from North London after 24 years in 3 Independent Churches.

Rev'd Samantha White, new to the URC, was welcomed in December. She was ordained on 2nd December following theological training at Westminster College, Cambridge.

AGM Annual Report. 200+ people have been involved in CTiS&D activities over the year. Thanks were expressed to all, especially those in leadership roles.

10 successful areas of mission are: the Way Inn, Kettle & Fish, Prayer Breakfasts, 4 United Services, Praise in the Park, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a Lent Course, Easter Story, 4 Open Forums and WHAC.

However, 'a recent report in the Times revealed that 20% of people believed in a higher power, 20% had no belief in higher power, and while 38% of those questioned believed in a traditional God, there was a noticeable gap in our churches – very few young people.'

The Chairman closed his report by saying, 'Perhaps as our churches work together we are learning to share resources, and in future should share buildings, meetings, visions and dreams.'

2007

Forums. 22nd February. Speaker: Mr Paul Willer of Assington Christian Centre, who described how the vision of his late Mother, Gertrude had developed over the last 35 years.

Assington Hall burnt down in the early 1960s and the ruins have been incorporated into new premises, well suited as a day Conference Centre. It provides facilities for Christian groups looking for a retreat, away days or study. The aim is to strengthen churches but not to influence them. Although mainly used at weekends, it is available during the week and is booked up to 6-9 months ahead. There are two camp sites and also beautiful grounds.

Mr and Mrs Weller welcome ideas for improving and developing the facilities in order to better meet the needs of local churches.

Living Waters Fellowship (Apostolic Church, Gregory Street) accepted the invitation to join CTiS&D and was welcomed warmly.

6th June: Focus on Healing: Part of a DVD by Jennifer Rees Larcombe was shown, covering her life from early childhood and her remarkable recovery from a sudden illness which left her confined to a wheelchair for 8 years.

Following the Day of Prayer in March, several people had felt called to the ministry of healing. Lynda Sebbage is investigating the practice of healing in our churches and will report to a task force of ministers and others who will then make recommendations.

12th September. Including AGM.

There was an extensive range of Fairtrade goods on display and for purchase, before and after the meeting, brought by John and Rose Loy from their Fairtrade shop in Kelvedon.

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Roger Pullan.

Vice Chairman: Dr. Malcolm Offord.

Honorary Secretary: Lynda Sebbage until Christmas. (Deputy: Gay Layburn.)

Enabling Committee:

Communications Officer Malcolm Snow.

Church Representatives:

St. John's: Diane Badrick or Carol Smith.

Cornard Christian Fellowship: David Ford.

URC: Chris Proffitt.

Sudbury Baptist: Eleanor Ridge.

Quakers: Sheelagh Ruse.

Holy Trinity, Long Melford: Peter Sebbage.

5th December. Speaker: Kathleen Ben Rabha (Diocesan Communities Adviser) on 'Violence in the Home – the Hidden Evil'.

Kathleen opened her talk with these statements:

- a) We are the body of Christ and need to talk to and care for one another.
- b) Ending the silence; by naming the subject we have taken the first step in dealing with it.
- c) Keep minds and hearts open to what God is saying and prompting us to say.

She then showed 4 video clips outlining shocking statistics, some effects on victims and children, some reasons behind domestic violence and how society and churches could respond.

Resource packs were available for everyone to take home.

Clergy changes.

In February, Rev'd Nigel Ford and his wife Valerie now at Sudbury Baptist Church were introduced and warmly welcomed

In September, a warm welcome was extended to Andrew and Emma Stewart-Darling from Twickenham to the Stour Valley Vineyard Church. This is a plant from the Bury St Edmunds Vineyard.

WHAC.

West Suffolk Hospital Services is £11.5 m in debt and plans to close both Sudbury hospitals imminently. Tim Yeo MP has tabled four questions to Patricia Hewitt, Health Minister.

As historically health care was delivered by the church, and Care in the Community is the current trend, the question was asked as to what could be practically done by CTIS&D in

2007. Rev'd Samantha White voiced concern about transport problems to other hospitals and Pastor Avery said that Parish Nursing had been used in his previous area.

A plaque on St Leonards Hospital records that 33 local towns and villages had subscribed to an extension of the hospital in 1938. For the last 30 years, local people have been striving to retain the local hospital services and medical practitioners are now joining in a push for a local Community Hospital with outpatient and peripatetic facilities.

Submissions to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel were presented by Tim Yeo MP, Lord Phillips, staff from Walnuttree and St. Leonard's hospitals, the Clerk to Sudbury Town Council, local GPs, other health professionals, councillors, educationalists, business people and members of the public, all striving for the building of Sudbury's own Community Hospital.

Kettle & Fish. Christian music was now being played as a quiet background and a display and information table was being used monthly by St. Nicholas Hospice. Volunteers were working well together and more could be used for refreshments and as listeners. The number of customers was up and a tally was being kept of those arriving after 1.00pm.

The 2nd birthday was celebrated with new equipment, aprons with K&F logo and Lord Phillips giving a warm endorsement to the work.

Way Inn. Peter Sebbage reported that since the move to the Salvation Army premises, numbers had declined to the point of it only being viable to open once a week during January. Sadly, Way Inn closed its doors later in the year.

Marriage Focus Group. CTiS&D is producing a booklet to show what each church has to offer. This is dependent on churches submitting attractive details if they wish to be included. It will be freely available in main public places.

A Christian Wedding Fair is being planned to show that a wedding does not have to be extravagant, leaving the couple with a debt at the start of their married life,

A marriage preparation course is being planned.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Rev'd Jamie Allen is making a booklet of the signatures on the CTiS&D Covenant signed at the United Service held at St. Andrew's on the Sunday

evening. Weekday services were held at St. Gregory's, All Saints', Sudbury Baptist, St. John's, and the Catholic Church. The prayer breakfast was held at Cornard Christian Fellowship.

Sudbury on Show. This was taken round two Upper Schools prior to the day in Sudbury on 17th February. Several students flinched at the name of Jesus in the title of the Alpha booklet 'Why Jesus?' but others were interested in the prayer prompts and paper back gospels.

Several churches had stands and CTiS&D made £230 profit on refreshments.

Future Vision. Ian Copeman had visited Scripture Union HQ and was amazed that Sudbury was known to staff there. Crusaders had become associated with SU as 'n:vision', generating a further network of support. This was a great encouragement.

More volunteers are always needed and work with Helen Woodroffe at the Cathedral Discovery Centre was becoming closer through Reflective Storytelling and Godly Play.

Easter. A Day of Prayer and Fasting was arranged by Joy Ayrton on 4th March at Living Waters Church, particularly about the amount of sickness in Sudbury, particularly among church leaders.

Lent Course was held over 5 weeks, well supported and appreciated.

The Ven. David Brierley, Archdeacon of Sudbury visited a Café Church evening at All Saints' Hall. His subject was 'Come and Follow Me.'

In the following 4 weeks, home groups were held on Social Justice, Fresh Expressions of Church, Sharing our Faith, and a Bring and Share supper with Holy Communion.

As last year, a Passover Supper was held at the Roman Catholic Church. Tickets were required to assist with catering.

Lent Rambles. A new venture arranged by Peter Sebbage for fun and getting to know one another. Walk 1, of 3,4 or 5 miles around Hartest with an option of lunch at Hartest Crown.

Walk 2, 4 ½ miles around Assington with a possible lunch at the Shoulder of Mutton pub.

Good Friday: Rev'd Jamie Allen presented a morning service outside St Peter's, also an evening concert was held at Living Waters Church.

Weekly prayer meetings: Held on Wednesdays throughout March, for the town.

Fair Trade Fortnight. Held 26th February- 11th March, including a food-tasting at Waitrose.

Sudbury's Mayor, Nigel Bennett very supportive of Sudbury becoming a Fair Trade town, introducing Fair Trade refreshments at the Town Council offices.

Chilton Woods Development. Further to the developer's presentation of plans to the Town Council, it was agreed that CTiS&D records of previous dealings with them be re-read. A sub-committee was formed including Rev'd Simon Gill and Jane Kohler, to remind Ashwells the developers, and local Councils of the wish for a true Christian presence to be incorporated.

Prayer was requested for this venture. Ashwells Project Manager expressed a wish to meet with church representatives and a useful meeting was held between CTiS&D members and the Archdeacon of Sudbury in preparation for a meeting with Ashwells early in 2008.

Christian Aid Week. This year focussing on Dafur. £6882.06 was raised in Sudbury and £1365 in Long Melford.

Eden's Youth Project. Project Manager Mike Maidment left in May to take up a post in Bristol; his departure came as a shock but he was given a happy farewell party. It was said that he left Eden's in better fettle than it had ever been as he had obtained grants for new garden and cellar furniture, where the floor had been levelled. There is new kitchen equipment and a pool table in the Games Room. He also obtained a grant enabling Suffolk Young Carers to access the Eden's facilities for a fun time out.

'My Year Out' was his initiative, offering training in leadership to Gap Year students, currently there were 5 applicants for 4 places.

The post of Operations Manager was advertised and 20 requests for information packs had been received. Following interviews held in July, Neil Holmes was appointed

21st July: Eden's Open evening for adults.

Praise in the Park. 16th July. Jon Halden brought some ideas for the afternoon, including a free barbecue, face painting, cake and soft drinks stall, Christian bookstall, Art stall, puppets,

Football and other organised games, bands, St. Andrew's Children's choir and St. John's Dance group. The service was brought forward to 4.30, with music to follow.

Christmas Hampers. Peter Sebbage co-ordinated the collection, packing and distribution of 105 hampers between Homestart families, Age Concern and individuals. Gifts were given to Eden's and the Catholic Church Christmas lunch.

Christmas Day Bereavement Service. Held in the afternoon at St. Peter's Church entitled 'A Time to Remember and be Thankful.' Led by Rev'ds Nigel Ford and Richard Titford, it was well attended and received. Recommended that this become a regular event.

Number 72. A shop in North Street run by Tim and Joy Ayrton, aiming to build up family life and be a bridge to the community. Recently used by Sudbury and Gt Cornard Schools Cluster, Sudbury Community Cluster, Parent Partnership, Care for the Family, and Perspectives Pregnancy Crisis.

Other groups seeking premises are welcome to approach 72 and drop in visitors are welcome.

2008

The year started well with CTiS&D winning a Babergh District Council Community Achievement Award!

Forums. 28th February. Discussion Groups took place concerning A) What the CTiS&D priorities should be and how to encourage better attendance at Forums? B) should the summer Praise Event continue in Belle Vue Park or move to St.Peter's and the Market Hill? C) Should the Lent Agape meal be repeated? D) should Credit Unions be explored?

All received positive responses, most covered in individual reports which follow.

Lynda Sebbage (Secretary) circulated information request forms to all churches, in order that all contact details, magazine deadline dates and days and times of regular meetings could be recorded and used to answer queries.

11th June. Speaker was Mr David Hammand gave a tour and history of the Lady Chapel at Holy Trinity Church. (Where the meeting was being held.)

Rev'd John Nurser talked of the Friends of the Church in China and suggested CTIS&D might become corporate members at £30 per annum. This was proposed, seconded and agreed.

A draft constitution was circulated to the member churches for consideration and possible adoption at the next Forum if not controversial.

25th September. Agape supper and AGM. (There does not seem to be a record of this meeting.)

3rd December. Steve Millard of Suffolk Road Church gave a presentation on Town Pastors and described what was needed in order for this provision to be set up in Sudbury.

Joint Services. A) January, Unity Week. B) May, Christian Aid Week. C) July, Praise on the Hill. D) October, Service. E) December, Candlelit Service with St. Nicholas Hospice.

WATCH (formerly WHAC). The Independent Reconfiguration Panel recommended that St. Leonards and Walnuttree Hospitals be closed as not fit for purpose BUT NOT until alternative provision is in place and prove-ably working.

All current Out Patient facilities to remain, with the exception of Audiology and improvement of X-ray equipment to facilitate ultrasound diagnostics.

No mention of a Minor Injuries Unit and transport issues must be examined.

WATCH remains active and focussed on Sudbury's behalf, supported by Tim Yeo MP.

Healing Ministry. Following much prayer and planning Acorn Christian Healing Ministries started the Training Programme for 10 delegates from a number of churches, in October. This was initially carried out as part of Kettle & Fish.

Website and emails. The new website: <http://churchestogetherinsudbury.org.uk> has up to date information and archived news. Malcolm Snow sends weekly information to 100+ people from: malcolmsnow@onetel.com .He invites further recipients with email addresses.

Christian Aid Week. The evening service at St. John's was well attended and 70+ people collected £6162 in Sudbury and Gt. Cornard. Long Melford collected £1545 – an excellent result.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year marked the centenary, first marked by an Episcopalian priest in the USA. The image from Ground Zero symbolised prayers for peace and reconciliation. Sandwiched between two Prayer Breakfasts, the inaugural service was held at All Saints' Church with Steve Millard of Suffolk Road Church as preacher.

Midweek services were held at St. Andrew's, Suffolk Road, Living Waters, Salvation Army and the Roman Catholic Church, where a soup lunch was provided.

Lent Course. 'Sharing our Faith' was this year's theme and was an outcome of a day course in evangelism in May 2007. Up to 120 attended the three sessions in St. Peter's, entitled 'People Matter to God', 'Being Yourself' and 'Getting Beyond Eastenders and Emmerdale'. Two further sessions followed in home groups 'Telling your Story' and 'Sharing His Story'.

Good Friday. A service on the theme of Mime, Music and Message was held, due to the weather, inside St. Peter's Church. Mime artist Lisa Trend movingly portrayed the forgiveness of St. Peter to the music of Don Francisco. The sermon was preached by Godfrey Mettle, formerly of Suffolk Road Church and hot cross buns were served to 150+ people.

Marriage Focus Group. Has produced 100s of copies of a guide to getting married in church, having first secured funding. Stalls were manned at Wedding Fairs in January and September. Training for delivery of the 'Prepare-Enrich' material was well attended, enabling this to be offered to couples, 30 of whom have already taken part.

Praise on Market Hill. Much prayer, work and paper went into the preparation for this event on 13th July, entitled 'Love changes Everything'. A warm, sunny afternoon was perfect for examples of how life is changed through Christ's love. The whole centre of the Market Hill was taken up with people having fun. Kettle & Fish served refreshments and there was a free barbecue. There were choirs, bands, dance and drama, puppets and a mime artist. Followed at 4.30 by an hour of worship with local people taking part and a powerful message given by the Archdeacon of Sudbury, the Venerable David Brierley.

Roger Pullan, CTiSD Chairman, described the afternoon expressing 'delight that so many people turned out today; this event shows Christians in the area working together, united in their witness to the people of the town. We are particularly grateful to the Town Council and the Mayor, who has been with us this afternoon, for supporting us with the arrangements and to all who have worked tirelessly to make the event such a success.'

Town Pastors. Meetings have taken place with the Ipswich Town Pastors with a view to setting up, under God, a team in Sudbury. Seeds have been sown.

Chilton Woods. Four CTiSD representatives attended a site meeting arranged by the developers in August. Two viewpoints were used, one near the former airfield at Gt. Waldingfield and the second at Cuckoo Tye. These highlighted the enormity of the project which included wildlife areas, allotments, an office and light industrial park and the 'Village Hub' where the potential 'faith' building would be. Initially this is likely to be a Community building which would need to be sustainably financially viable. For this whole project to become a reality, adjustments have to be made due to the recession and prayer needs to be continued.

Eden's. The Café Bar, Hot Food, IT Games, Pool, Films, Talkzone, Musiczone and workshops with occasional Live Bands continued to flourish. Grants have produced a new cooker, furniture and pool table. Creative Workshops on card making, jewellery, and drama have been enjoyed, leading to the production of Luv Esther.

The premises are regularly used by Suffolk Young Carers and for music training by Babergh Amplifier.

'My Year Out' is going well with students busy on discipleship and training courses – the girls in schools and church placements and the boys with music, amplification and sports ventures.

Future Vision. Three new clubs have started in Uplands Middle and Acton and Gt. Waldingfield Primary Schools. Ian Copeman values the help from Steve Millard and Kevin Gaunt but needs more, especially a fundraiser.

A Holiday Club was held at Woodhall School in March.

Kettle & Fish. A large scale re-vamp included new small tables, more variety and better quality food and drink, more stalls, background music (sometimes live) and adjusted opening hours. This has enhanced image and reputation and thus impressively increased customer numbers. Consequently, more volunteers are really needed, in all areas. The 'Fish' side is very valuable to many who find it a safe place to share their concerns in confidence.

The prayer corner is used by many and the prayer prompts are a successful initiative.

3rd birthday was celebrated on 2nd October.

Ministerial Changes. Lt. Margaret Bale (Salvation Army) was welcomed to her new posting.

Rev'd Canon Gregory Webb, appointed Priest in Charge of St. Gregory's Church following the retirement of Rev'd Laurence Pizzey, was welcomed at the June Forum.

Welcome to John Bleazard, new Curate at St. Andrew's Church.

A farewell gift was presented to Rev'd Marion Bright on her early retirement from St. John's Methodist church.