

## Minutes of the CTiS&D Open Forum and AGM held on Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

Attendance: There were 20 people from 14 churches.

1	The Forum was held at St Catherine's, Long Melford and opened with a welcome from the Rev Matt Lawson who led the opening worship.	
2	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Malcolm and Judith Offord, Peter Halden, Andy and Jane Jowitt, Rev Andrew Doarks, Mandy Turner, Geraldine Garate-Banua [Jesus Reigns Ministry] and Andrew and Anita Dixey.	
3	<b>Welcomes</b> In their absence Geraldine Garate-Banua [Jesus Reigns Ministry], Rev Andrew Doarks [St Gregory and All Saints] and Rev Daniel Whiffen [Bures, Assington and Little Cornard] were welcomed to Churches Together in Sudbury and District.	
4	<b>Minutes of the 2021 AGM</b> The minutes of the 2021 AGM were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.	
5	<b>Rev Matthew Lawson to speak</b> A summary of Mr Lawson's talk is annexed to these minutes.	
6	<b>Treasurer's Annual Report</b> A copy of the treasurer's accounts for the year 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 had been circulated together with a report on the finances as at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022. The treasurer pointed out that the difference in the balances were due to the fact that some cheques had not been paid in. There were no questions for the Treasurer. He was thanked for all the work he does keeping the finances in order.	
7	<b>Annual Reports</b> The Annual Reports had been circulated. The Chairman thanked Ruth for the preparation of the report. He encouraged everyone to read all that goes on in the Sudbury district. It was clear that recovery after COVID had been hard work. Prayers were requested for the ongoing work of all groups.	
8	<b>18-30's Proposal</b> Roger Pullan (co-ordinator of the CTiS&D 18-30's Task Group) said he had a great concern for the young people of Sudbury and he thanked Rev Matt Lawson for his insights into an exciting project getting outside church walls. There was now an opportunity to do something innovative in Sudbury. Roger gave the meeting the background to Ian Featherstone who saw himself as committed to working with young people and was prepared to come and take part in a six month pilot project. He	

	<p>circulated a proposal for outreach to and support for local young adults. He was proposing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A pilot run of 6 months of fortnightly visits by Ian Featherstone</li> <li>b. CTiS&amp;D to pay Ian as an independent contractor</li> <li>c. CTiS&amp;D to underwrite the budget of up to £1000, subject to any donations received. [It was noted that the figures in the proposal added up to £802, not £1,000. After the meeting it was discovered that the cost of an enhanced DBS check for Mr Featherstone could cost £100]</li> </ol> <p>The project had the support of a number of ministers. The Forum discussed the proposals. Roger said that he would be prepared to do some fundraising for this project. He hoped that funding from other sources could be found as well. It was noted that it looked as if, from the list of re-allocations of funding, as if there was money available. It was also noted that only 9 churches had made affiliation donations for this year. The Treasurer said that there was only sufficient money in the Kettle and Fish account for two years. The Chairman, Gerry Higginson, said that we should step out in faith and that God would provide. He proposed that the project should go ahead and that the finance, up to £1,000, should be underpinned by CTiS&amp;D for 6 months. This was seconded by Tom Burrows. The meeting voted in favour of the proposal – there was one abstention. Roger Pullan agreed to prepare a note about the project which could be used to put into church magazines or pew sheets to seek donations. It was noted that it was not too late for churches to give this year's affiliation donation.</p>	
9	<p><b>Chairman's Remarks</b></p> <p>The Chairman said it had been a privilege to serve CTiS&amp;D as Chairman for the last six years, but he was very pleased that Tom was prepared to take over. His time as Chairman had enriched his personal and spiritual life. He thanked the Forum for the prayers and encouragement he had received. He had always felt supported. Tom Burrows proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. The vote in favour was unanimous.</p>	
10	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the officers should be elected en bloc. The following were appointed: Chairman – Tom Burrows Vice Chairmen – Andy Jowitt and Gerry Higginson Treasurer – Peter Heard Executive Secretary – Ruth Ridge Minutes Secretary – Gill Phillips Communications – Malcolm Snow</p>	

	<p>There were no nominations for the post of Press Officer</p> <p>Tom Burrows took over as Chairman. He introduced himself to the Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He worshipped at Stour Valley Vineyard Church</li> <li>• He had served in the RAF</li> <li>• He had been a Christian since the age of 15</li> </ul>	
11	<p><b>Ratification of Appointments</b></p> <p>There was unanimous agreement to the appointment of Ruth Ridge as Chairman of Kettle and Fish and Andrew and Anita Dixey as Managers of Kettle and Fish.</p>	
12	<p><b>Future Events</b></p> <p><b>Christian/Muslim dialogue</b> – Jill Pullan said that everyone was invited to the Christian/Muslim dialogue on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm at the Quaker Meeting House. Imam Ajmal will speak about what the Quran means to him, and the Rector of St Gregory's, Rev. Andrew Doarks, will speak about what the Bible means to him. This will be followed by an open discussion. The meeting will finish by 3.15 pm.</p> <p>Jill encouraged everyone to come and take part! She said it would be a great opportunity to show friendship, explore another world faith, and share our own appreciation of the Bible.</p> <p><b>Eden's Service</b> would be held at Cornard Christian Fellowship on 16<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 pm</p> <p><b>Light up a Life service</b> will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> November at St Gregory. It was open to everyone. There would be another LUAL service in Lavenham on 29<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b> - it was agreed that it should run from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Weekday services would be discussed when the meeting to agree dates for the year was held. It was noted that the theme is Belonging – Praying for unity amidst injustice. Materials have been prepared by churches in Minneapolis.</p>	
13	<p><b>News from churches and AOB</b> – Rachel Hepburn from the Salvation Army and Hannah Kemp from No. 72 are compiling a list of warm spaces in the Sudbury area. It was suggested that if any churches had a time when their church or hall is open for people to find warmth and to socialise, they should contact Rachel or Hannah.</p> <p>An invitation to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival had been received. It was agreed in principle that it was important to take part</p> <p>The Chairman said that he thought it would be helpful if CTIS&amp;D could adopt a strapline which made its purpose clear. He</p>	

	proposed “One Church, one Faith, one Lord”. The Forum approved the proposal unanimously.	
14	<p><b>Your Views</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Ford informed the Forum about the problems experienced by a friend, Felix, who had become an administrator at a school in Uganda supported by CCF. Because of his Christian beliefs he had been tortured and poisoned twice. He requested prayers for Felix and his wife Maureen.</li> <li>• Tom told Forum how Stour Valley Vineyard Church was growing and expanding its children’s work. Joel and Kady had also started a group for young people. They were very excited about what was happening in Sudbury</li> <li>• Tom had been in touch with the “Jesus Reigns Ministry”. He said they were very interested in joining CTiS&amp;D and hoped to get to the next meeting.</li> <li>• David Ford asked for prayers for Malcolm and Kathleen Hill. Malcolm was very frail.</li> </ul>	
15	<p><b>Time of Prayer</b></p> <p>There was a time of prayer and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm with the saying of the Grace.</p>	

## Annex

### Notes on Mr Lawson’s talk on Lightwave and 4.o’clock community

Mr Lawson said the Church of England had challenges in connection with children’s work. Lightwave challenged churches to meet in small groups, not necessarily in church.

In Long Melford, Holy Trinity was running Connect Toddler Group at St Catherine’s; working with schools; running a Youth Club [Fusion] as well as other activities such as Messy Church. Messy Church was one of the activities run at 4.00 pm on a Sunday afternoon. Activities run on nearly every Sunday at this time were really aimed at reaching parents and included Informal worship, Forest Church and social activities.

Lightwave provided funding and practical support. Holy Trinity needed to be accountable and to be able to say how many people had started coming regularly who would not normally attend worship.

He said that they were working on this, muddling through and making mistakes but facing the challenges.

Mr Lawson was asked whether there were plans to spread wider than Long Melford. He said that he already covered a very wide area which meant that 4 o’clock activities could move around the area.

Mr Lawson was thanked for his interesting introduction to Lightwave and the 4 o’clock community