

Minutes of the CTiS&D Open Forum and AGM held on Wednesday 18th October 2023

Attendance: There were 27 people from 15 churches and other organisations.

1	<p>Worship The Forum was welcomed by the Rev Mark Ulanowski who led the opening worship.</p> <p>Town Pastors Rev Mark Ulanowski was asked to talk about the situation regarding Town Pastors. He read the report contained in the Annual Report which had been circulated. He added that the situation had been made more difficult as the CCTV had been pulled by the police. Questions were invited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was asked why CCTV had been pulled. Mark suggested it could have been a funding issue and possible an attempt to save money.• He was also asked whether the situation in Sudbury was reflected in other areas. Mark confirmed that it was – particularly in small towns. In larger towns such as Ipswich Town Pastors continued working as there were more people including more volunteers. <p>Ruth suggested that thanks should be given for all the work the Town Pastors had done and what they had achieved. She said that some things come to a natural end. The Chairman said that we needed to be aware of opportunities that God would open up for us in the future.</p>
2	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Malcolm and Judith Offord, Rev Andrew Doarks, and Rev Chris Ramsey.</p>
3	<p>Welcomes The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM but extended a especially warm welcome to Geraldine Garate-Banua and Rhainier Banua from the Jesus Reigns Ministry who had come to this meeting.</p>
4	<p>Minutes of the 2022 AGM The minutes of the 2022 AGM were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman.</p>
5	<p>Treasurer's Annual Report A copy of the treasurer's accounts for the year 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 had been circulated. The treasurer said that the loss of his computer with which he was familiar had created considerable difficulties for him. Additionally he added that due to technical advances and changes in the banking systems and procedures he felt that it was time for him to stand down. He asked that someone could be found to initially shadow him and then to take over from him.</p> <p>There were no questions for the Treasurer. He was thanked for all the work he does keeping the finances in order.</p>
6	<p>Annual Reports The Annual Reports had been circulated. The Chairman invited questions or comments.</p> <p>Roger Pullan emphasised the messages in his report on 18-30's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a great need to reach out to this age group• That where there is a project that churches can work on together, this is what should happen. He added that he would like someone to take over leadership of

	<p>this project from him. If anyone could be identified he asked that he should be advised.</p>
7	<p>Updates on other Projects</p> <p>Tom Burrows said that Stour Valley Vineyard would be moving from its current location. The church would be located at Tudor Primary School; Storehouse would be on the industrial estate and the children’s work would be housed at the Scout Headquarters. They were still praying that they would be able to find a place large enough so that all their work could be in one place.</p> <p>Andy Jowitt said there was a revised rota for Prayer Breakfast. He asked if any church could offer to host Prayer Breakfast on November 11th which currently was blank on the rota.</p> <p>Andrew Dixey spoke about Open the Book. He said that Ingrid Morelli would be shortly moving on to a full-time post so there was a need to find someone else to manage teams and grow relationships with the schools. He asked if anyone could think of an appropriate person to let him know.</p> <p>Richard Stanford then gave the AGM a brief history of TWAM [Tools with a Mission] a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation. It had started in 1978 when a carpenter was asked to make incubators [for hen’s eggs] for Zaire. A local headteacher had become interested and got the boys cleaning and collecting tools. In 2004 TWAM became a registered charity and with great courage took a 25 year lease on an industrial unit in the Hadleigh Road. When in India he had discovered how much Singer sewing machines were valued and he gave us a song to illustrate this point. [Words are attached as an annex]. The need for these tools could perhaps be advertised in churches and if anyone has tools which could be re-used in this way, Richard could be contacted at richardstanford919@gmail.com .</p> <p>Andrew Dixey reported that Kettle and Fish was still going but was struggling with getting volunteers and getting people to come in. Some really good conversations are held at K&F. He noted that, as town pastors had found, things were changing. He reminded CTiS&D that the officers were legally responsible for Kettle and Fish. He was asked whether there was any possibility of getting back into St Peter’s. Andrew said they would love to but that under the present arrangements, with the lease being held by the Bridge Project, the doors were in effect closed to church activities. Andy Jowitt expressed the thanks of the meeting to Andrew and Anita Dixey and Ruth for all the work they do.</p> <p>The AGM were told that St Gregory and All Saints would be organising “Christmas through the Keyhole” in different locations for groups of Primary School children from 23rd to 25th November when there would be different Christmas scenarios available for the children to see and discuss. On Saturday November 25th, it would be open for everyone to visit.</p> <p>Geraldine from the Jesus Reigns Ministry Church thanked the AGM for the warm welcome they had received. She said they did feel part of the CTiS&D family. She said that Jesus Reigns Ministry had started in Sudbury in 2020 [which was a pandemic year]. They are a Bible church which is national and inclusive. For Christmas they are planning an old-fashioned “Christmas Carolling” with gifts to families and an invitation to church. They meet at the Hive [originally the URC].</p>

	<p>The Baptists said that in November they would be holding seminars, in house groups, on “How to speak about Jesus”. Details would be given to Malcolm to be circulated via Church News.</p> <p>David Ford said that Cornard Christian Fellowship were waiting for plans to be approved for a hall to be built behind the church. He said that a Youth Group had been started and was meeting every Wednesday and a couple of Sunday School meetings had been held. They would be holding their usual annual “Light Party” at the end of October.</p> <p>It was noted that at Long Melford a Youth ALPHA Course was about to start.</p>
8	<p>Chairman’s Remarks</p> <p>The Chairman said it had been a privilege to serve CTiS&D as Chairman for the last year but that for personal reasons he needed to stand down. He thanked CTiS&D for the support and guidance he had received during his time in office.</p>
9	<p>Elections</p> <p>It was agreed that the officers should be elected en bloc.</p> <p>The following were appointed: Chairman – Peter Halden Vice Chairmen – Andy Jowitt, Gerry Higginson and Rev Jim Stewart Treasurer – Peter Heard Executive Secretary – Ruth Ridge Minutes Secretary – Gill Phillips Communications – Malcolm Snow Press Officer – Matt George</p> <p>It was noted that the constitution allowed for “additional Vice-chairpersons” so no election was necessary.</p> <p>Peter Halden took over as Chairman. He said that had agreed to be nominated as he felt that any organisation without a leader was very much like a boat with no-one at the helm – and it could just drift anywhere. He acknowledged that he was not physically able to do what he could during his previous term of office, but that he could still think. He said that he was concerned that CTiS&D should seek a fresh vision, and plan how to achieve it. He had put the following thoughts to the AGM in 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My first thought surrounds “Vision” – we at CTiS&D need to grasp a new vision of the way forward. The steering group need to look at what its “Vision” is? - Suggestions from this meeting would be welcomed. • We need somehow to attract younger “blood” into CT and get every church, who are affiliated, to designate a representative so we can hear every churches view perhaps • We should consider having a service to renew our covenant with one another. We did have a renewal of covenant service in 2017 - during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and hosted by Fr Peter at the Roman Catholic Church • We need to help build up the Christians in our community as well as reach out to others. Could we run a mission? • Could we have another concert with a high-profile singer (Stuart Townend or Lou Fellingham spring to mind)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When, or if, the council reintroduces “Party in the Park” how could we get involved? • Should we reproduce the CT leaflet – although it is recognised that it becomes out-of-date almost as soon as it is printed • It has been suggested that we looked to repeat Praise on Market Hill. This would need a group of people wholly committed to seeing this through from start to finish to make this a success. • Perhaps we should focus on Green Issues and Fairtrade <p>He said that whatever we decide to do we must grab this God given opportunity of a new beginning as we get our freedom back and use it fully to His Glory</p>
10	<p>Ratification of Appointments</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>
11	<p>Update on approval to changes in the constitution</p> <p>Roger said that there were 29 churches involved in CTiS&D and 24 of those had considered the proposed amendments and had agreed them.</p> <p>It was proposed that the AGM should ratify what all the churches had agreed to. The proposed amendments to the constitution were adopted.</p>
12	<p>Future Events</p> <p>Light up a Life service would be held on 26th November at St Gregory at 3.00 pm. Ruth said that readers and pray-ers from as many churches as possible would be needed and asked anyone willing to help to contact her.</p> <p>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Malcolm said that it would run from Saturday 20th January to Saturday 27th January starting and finishing with Prayer Breakfast. The United Service would be held at Suffolk Road. Further details about the week would be circulated later.</p>
13	<p>News from churches and AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman reported that St Andrews was in the middle of extensive proposals for work to remove all the pews; provide a new toilet and a new kitchen; change the step at the entrance to the church etc. Grant giving bodies were being approached. Prayers would be appreciated. • Roger made a plea for a small group to be set up who could then meet with the Bridge Project to discuss the use of St Peters for Christian purposes
14	<p>Your Views</p> <p>The Chairman asked those present for any ideas about action that could/should be taken in the next few years. He suggested that this could be an EnGp agenda item.</p>
15	<p>Time of Prayer</p> <p>Mark led a time of prayer and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm</p>

TWAM Tools With A Mission

Theres a great big celebration
When a Singer comes to town.
All the folks get excited
When the whisper goes around
Who will be chosen
From all those eager fans
Theres a great big celebration
When a Singer comes to town

Chorus

It's been stripped it's been shipped
It's been oiled and dusted down
It's been matched and despatched
By T W A M
Tools with a mission is where it's going down
If you've got a Singer then I'm a coming round

All up and down the land in garages and sheds
Loads of useful tools that never get used
Don't let em rust don't let em fade away
There's someone in this this wasteful world
Who could really make em pay

You may not be able to save the world from greed
But give the people tools then their family can feed
All those rusty tools that are hanging on a hook
When you get on home why don't you go and look.