

## **Minutes of the CTiS&D Forum held at Great Waldingfield Church on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Present: 28 people from 15 churches

### **1 Welcome**

Rev Faith Marsden welcomed the Forum to Great Waldingfield. She said she had been the rector for nearly 3 years and she was grateful to God for the community she lived in and for the energy she is given to serve them. The family service is the best attended service when people start with breakfast, go on to work with their family on crafts before worship. She would like to see more families at Great Waldingfield. She felt blessed by the very supportive people around her. She also made the points:

- It was important that church should be a welcoming place
- We needed the support of friends and family in outreach work
- She recognised that she was rector of the whole parish – not just those who attended church
- The path would not always be easy

2 She then led the **opening worship**.

### **3 Apologies and Greetings**

Apologies were received from Andrew Dixey, Rev Mary Styles and Ann Smythe.

### **4 Update on the Stour Valley Men's Shed – Rev Chris Ramsey**

During a sabbatical Chris said he had become interested in men's sheds. These were places to pursue practical interests at leisure, practice skills and enjoy making and mending. It gave men the opportunity to talk about their feelings. Chris said that the second biggest killer of men under 55 was suicide. Generations were growing up without learning how to open up about what is going on inside them. The movement started in Australia about 30 years ago. Their motto is "Shoulder to shoulder". If men are working on something together, shoulder to shoulder, they are more likely to talk to each other than if they were face to face. Men's sheds were developed to help camaraderie – particularly for those just retired - a time when they feel lost. The scheme also helped those who were long-term unemployed, or those with time on their hands during the day.

A Men's Shed now operates out of Melford Football Club. The arrangement was that they paid no rent but did work for the Football Club. They also had a possible project at St Catherine's. Membership is £15 a year which includes insurance cover. At the moment they needed people prepared to take leadership roles and also funding to replace the roof.

Although not a Christian organisation, it could be a role for people from churches to be a friend with a shoulder.

In reply to questions Chris said:

- Men's Shed did have a lot of specialist equipment and gave training on the correct use
- It was a charity
- Current membership was 60-70 men although on any day it was open there could be 10 or 12 people.

## **5. Still Good to Eat**

Chris then went on to explain how "Still Good to Eat" operated. He said that:

- It was a partnership between St Andrew's Church and Councillor Judith Wilson
- It ran on Thursday mornings
- People paid £3.00 for a bag and £3.00 to fill it – or they could use their own bag provided it was the same size. The food was served by volunteers to ensure the distribution was fair
- The food was supplied by local supermarkets and is food that is surplus at the end of the day or has reached its best before date but which is still safe to eat. Available food is advertised on an app and St Andrews can order what they want and go and collect it
- Although food is free, there are costs in terms of volunteers' time and petrol. Additionally, they pay for donations each week from Food Share
- 40-45 people come each week. Some people come as they have very limited income and need the food for their families. Others come because they cannot bear to see food waste. This too is an important part of the project. There is never any food left at the end of the session
- The church provides storage, space for the project to run and some volunteers
- The project is not explicitly Christian although Vicki Leonard pointed out that people coming in for food did recognise that the building was a church
- Chris' role was to talk to people . He said it was a fantastic witness – working with people who are not necessarily Christian but who are prepared to work with compassion.
- Publicity was Facebook and word of mouth.
- A poster is annexed to these minutes.

## **Similar Project in Great Waldingfield**

Rev Faith Marsden described the Community Pantry project which was run by Great Waldingfield Church.

- The project started with a request from the school for support
- The Parish Council had paid the rent for the Village Hall from which the project operated and provided storage
- There was a partnership with Fare Share who deliver food each Wednesday.
- Any surplus money is used to buy extras that are needed
- They organise Christmas lunches and prepare Christmas hampers
- Some allotment holders provide fresh fruit and vegetables
- Sometimes other items such as toys, books, and clothing are available
- 40-45 people are helped each week

Faith said that they were serving the community, but a most important part of the project was that people were able to sit and chat with each other.

There was a round of applause for those who ran these important projects

## **6. Church News**

- Ann Lycett reported that a successful community barbecue had been held by Sudbury Baptist Church. Despite the rain it had been a very successful event.
- Peter Halden said that the faculty approval for the building project at St Andrew's had now been received. A donation of £32,000 had been received from the Benefact Trust.
- Lieutenant Patsy Attwood said that the Salvation Army would be running a school uniform swap shop on 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup> August from 9.30-12.00. She explained that although it was called a swap shop, it was not necessary to bring uniform items in. People could take what they needed. There will be publicity going out soon.
- David Lamming said that the Bishop would be retiring in February 2025 and that the discernment process is beginning. He said that there would be a Zoom meeting on the evening of July 17<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested in expressing a view on who should be the next bishop. The link would be on the diocesan website.

## **7. Your Views**

Rev Ruth Ridge drew attention to the fact that Christian Aid had a new campaign "Breaking Bread with your local MP". The idea was to initiate discussions of the issues surrounding poverty with new MPs. More details and suggestions can be found at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-06/breaking-bread-guide.pdf>.

Ruth suggested that EnGp reps could feed back any responses and the subject could perhaps be a subject for a discussion at a Forum.

## **8. Minutes of the previous Forum and Matters Arising**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

- Peter Halden reported that Sudbury Town Council had now agreed to apply for fairtrade status. He was waiting for guidance from Richard Stainer as to what action was now needed and by whom.
- He also took the opportunity to thank all those involved in the service at St Peter's which had been a great success

## **9 Finance Report**

The report on the finances as at 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024 had already been circulated. There were no questions on this report.

Peter Heard circulated an interim finance report from 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024. He drew attention to the donations made from the Dorcas Fund and Rev Chris Ramsey explained the background to the larger donation.

Peter said that the process of getting the paperwork in place so that Jim Stewart could take over some of the treasurer's responsibilities was in hand.

## **10. Update on Fair Trade**

This had been covered at item 8.

## **11 Any Other Business**

- It was suggested that a letter of thanks might be sent to the Churches Conservation Trust thanking them and expressing the hope that the service for St Peter's Day could become a regular event. It was noted that Rev Andrew Doarks already had this in hand.
- There was information available for churches to take about the dragonfly walks at Foxearth Meadows
- Malcolm Snow said that the County Council were asking for feedback on accessible EV charging for Suffolk. Literature was available for people to take back to their churches.

## **12 Closing Worship**

The Forum closed with a prayer and the Grace at 8.50 pm



# **Still Good to Eat Community Project At ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, GREAT CORNARD**

**Open every Thursday from 10-12**

- A community project open to all, no referral needed
- Reducing food mileage, redistributing food still good to eat
- First visit will require a **£ 6** donation to include a bag which you can fill with the produce available on that day. Any return visit requires a minimum of a **£3** donation.
- Alternatively, your **£3** donation enables you to borrow a bag and transfer your chosen produce into your own bag.
- Your donation will help the running of the project, secure its future and help pay for any overheads.

Our aim is to reduce food waste through redistribution of fresh food otherwise left unsold and destined for landfill, providing help with the struggle of the ever rising cost of living.

We are looking for volunteers from within our community to help with the running of the project, for further information please contact Judith, Chris or Rowland at:

[stillgoodtoeat@standrews-gc.org.uk](mailto:stillgoodtoeat@standrews-gc.org.uk)

Visit us on Facebook: Still good to Eat Great Cornard community page

**A partnership Between St Andrews Church and Cllr Judith Wilson supported by CC/  
DC Peter Beer and the Great Cornard Townlands Charity**