

Minutes of the CTiS&D Open Forum and AGM held on Monday 7th October 2024

At Sudbury Catholic church. Attendance: There were 22 people from 12 churches.

1	<p>Worship The Forum was welcomed by Peter Halden who led the opening worship encouraging us, as CTiD&D to refresh our vision.</p>
2	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Rev Ruth Ridge, Gerry Higginson, Graham Pattrick, Ann Smythe and Caroline Mountstephen</p>
3	<p>Welcome The Chairman welcomed Father Anthony to the AGM and thanked him for his hospitality to CTiS&D.</p>
4	<p>Minutes of the 2023 AGM and the Forum held on 10th July 2024 The minutes of the 2023 AGM together with the minutes of the Forum held on 10th July 2024 were agreed as accurate and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.</p>
5	<p>Treasurer's Annual Report A copy of the treasurer's accounts for the year 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 had been circulated. The Treasurer had no additional comments to make and there were no questions for the Treasurer. He was thanked for all the work he had done over the past 34 years keeping the finances in order. Peter said that he had been reflecting on the way God had been with him in his journey as treasurer. Malcolm Snow drew attention to the sizeable balance. He put the following proposal to the Forum. "The Forum authorises the Standing Committee to investigate suitable interest paying accounts and to take such action as is considered appropriate". Roger Pullan seconded the proposal and the Forum approved it</p>
6	<p>Annual Reports The Annual Reports had been circulated. The Chairman suggested that people should read them and that if they then had any questions, they should contact the author of the report.</p>
7	<p>Updates on other Projects</p> <p>Stu and Vicky from New Life Church spoke to the Forum on their church's new project. Stu outlined the journey New Life Church had taken in reaching the decision to see if using the Kintsugi Hope sessions and employing a community worker was part of God's plan. See attached appendix.</p> <p>Vicky then spoke about the Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing sessions. She explained that the name was given to a Japanese form of art in which something that was broken and useless was put together making it useful again and beautiful. She said that in the Sudbury and Great Cornard area there were between 120 – 150 people living in supported accommodation. She said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some came out of abusive relationships • Some came out of prison • They have little hope and they believe they are useless • We are all made in God's image and we all have gifts we can use • Kintsugi have developed a 12 week course. A trained facilitator would take participants through the 12 sections

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She and Stu had come to the Forum as part of the procedure to test whether proceeding with this project was following God's call • The intention was that churches in the area would be prepared to work alongside the project and were prepared to welcome those who had completed the course into their fellowship and making sure they had a sense of their own worth • Young people needed direction and someone to walk alongside them • It is God's job to do the fixing and the healing, but He needed us to assist • They had come to the Forum firstly to share in the discernment of whether the project was God's will for Sudbury. They also needed money to finance the project and wanted to open up the opportunity for support from the local churches to work with those who had undertaken the programme. • There are spiritually starving people in our area who need our prayers and our help. <p>Vicky then answered questions raised and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explained how the course would be run • the need for prayer • explained that there would not be duplication of the work done by the support workers in the hostel. She added that the support workers were seen as "policemen", their hours were being cut and she was finding that many of the workers were feeling demoralised • the material that was to be used in this course had been tried and tested <p>The Chairman thanked Stu and Vicky for their presentation. He said that there had been a proposal discussed at a Standing Committee meeting that CTiS&D should give a donation of up to £500 subject to certain points being clarified. Jim Stewart seconded the proposal. The majority of the Forum agreed to the proposal. There was one abstention.</p>
8	<p>Chairman's Remarks</p> <p>The Chairman said it had been a strange year however:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. there had been a very successful service at St Peter's and thanks were due to the Churches Historic Trust and to Rev Doarks for this 2. Kettle & Fish had run successfully over the past year thanks to the dedication and hard work of Andrew and Anita Dixey and Ruth Ridge 3. There had been a struggle to get the Council to agree to renewing the town's fairtrade status <p>He added that new blood was needed in CTiS&D. We needed new and younger people to take up positions in the CTiS&D. It was also important to get all the churches who had paid affiliation donations to ensure they have a rep serving in the Enabling Group.</p>
9	<p>Elections</p> <p>It was agreed that the officers should be elected en bloc.</p> <p>The following were appointed: Chairman – Jim Stewart Vice Chairman – Andy Jowitt Treasurer – position vacant Executive Secretary – Ruth Ridge Minutes Secretary – Gill Phillips Communications – Malcolm Snow Press Officer – position vacant</p> <p>It was noted that the position of Treasurer needed to filled as a matter of urgency.</p>

	<p>Jim Stewart took over as Chairman.</p> <p>He thanked everyone who had held office. Additionally thanks were expressed to Peter Halden for serving as Chair for the previous year. Thanks were also expressed to Gerry Higginson for serving as a Vice Chairman and to Matt George for his contribution to CTiS&D.</p>
10	<p>Ratification of Appointments</p> <p>The work of Ruth, Andrew and Anita with Kettle and Fish was absolutely vital. There was unanimous agreement that the appointments of Ruth Ridge as Chairman of Kettle and Fish and Andrew and Anita Dixey as Managers of Kettle and Fish should be ratified.</p>
11	<p>Future Events</p> <p>Evening service at Sudbury Baptist Church led by Eden's on Sunday 20th October</p> <p>Light up a Life service would be held on Sunday 24th November at St Gregory's at 3.00 pm.</p> <p>Christmas Tree Festival in St Peter's 3-8th December</p> <p>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – This would run from Saturday 18th January 2025 to Saturday 25th January 2025</p>
12	<p>News from churches and AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Halden said that on 1st November St Andrew's would be holding a cheese and wine supper to launch a booklet by Roy Tricker • Roger Pullan suggested that to raise awareness of CTiS&D churches should display an adhesive CTiS&D badge on their church noticeboard. These badges could be obtained either from him or from Rev Ruth Ridge • Jim Stewart noted that because of the level of CTiS&D's income, we would need to register with the Charity Commission in order to be legal. This could involve changes to our constitution, but there was a helpful template on the Charity Commission website which we would need to consider.
13	<p>Your Views</p> <p>No further views were expressed.</p>
14/15	<p>Time of Prayer and Closing Devotions</p> <p>The Forum closed by saying the Lord's Prayer together and sharing the Grace.</p> <p>The Forum closed at 8.45 pm</p>

APPENDIX

Good evening everyone; my name is STU Clarke and I am one of the Elders with New Life Church. Thank you for the invitation to come and share our vision with you. New Life Church's overall vision is to create a church that is 'Looking **UP**', 'Looking **IN**' and 'Looking **OUT**,' and we now have an exciting opportunity to build on this platform, as we look to employ a Community Support Worker responding to the practical needs and injustices we see around us.

Following a day of prayer and vision earlier this year at Assington Hall, we were challenged to discern ways in which we could get our hands dirty and involved for the sake of the kingdom of God. With much prayer and discussion, we were guided to consider supporting a Wellbeing Community initiative for initially one day a week, as we see the need to respond practically to our frontlines around Supported Housing (hostels), seeking an opportunity to respond to those that are poor in spirit around us.

The Community Support Worker will further expand their work through the introduction of **Kintsugi Hope** into the local supported housing system in Sudbury. **Kintsugi Hope** is a 12-week facilitated peer group that is Christian based & aims to bring God's hope, restoration & identity to those who are struggling with all aspects of life. [*Kintsugi is the Japanese art form that restores something that is broken with gold. Imagine a broken bowl that has been put back together again using gold as glue – once it's been restored to its original function & purpose, it's made beautiful once more. The tag line = 'Treasure in our scars'.*]

For me, the powerful insights within the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:2-12 are a potent and poignant insight into the souls of those people who struggle to cope with life - for a whole variety of reasons. Permit me to read some of them to you:

3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

7 *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*

9 *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[a] of God.*

Perhaps as you heard those words you could visualise our Lord Jesus sitting and looking into the eyes and hearts of the folk gathered round Him, knowing that He was to die for their salvation and to rise again from the dead for their redemption and healing. And knowing, too, their struggles and battles and addictions and poverty and fears and abuses....

Our intention is to run Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing sessions on site as we seek to reach those who are poor in spirit. Vicky Leonard is here with me to explain more of what Kintsugi Hope is, and what it means in practice.....

Whilst New Life Church is prepared to employ and support a Community Worker, this application for funding and prayer is not about a *"you in your small corner and I in mine"* approach. Kingdom projects are conducted across the board, and the integrity and power behind a project that can genuinely say that Churches Together in Sudbury and District are supportive is immeasurable. We ask you to help us discern the best way forward; if the Community Worker is 'successful', new folk from some or all of the nearby hostels will eventually be directed towards the churches within Sudbury, and will require long-term loving understanding, patience, and practical support.

So we have not come to beg or to plead, but to maturely request your tangible encouragement, discernment and support for the employment of a community worker that could clearly be allied and applied to the following verses with which I'll conclude:

Isaiah 61 1-3

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour."

In Christian service, **STU**