



Annual Report

November 2005

For use at the Open AGM held
10th November 2005
at St John's Hill URC, Sevenoaks
(7.30 for 8.00pm)

(C of E) 01959 522363
The Vicarage,
Station Road,
Shoreham TN14 7SA

Sundridge St Mary (C of E) Rev David Attwood
with Ide Hill The Rectory 01959 563749
Chevening Road
Sundridge, TN14 6AB

Uderriver St Margaret* (C of E) Rev Michael Cooke
St Lawrence Vicarage, 01732 761766
Stone Street, Seal,
Sevenoaks TN15 0LQ

Weald St George* (C of E) interregnum
St George's Vicarage, 01732 463291
Church Road
Weald TN14 6LT

Westerham St Mary the Virgin Rev Paul McVeagh
(C of E) 01959 563127
The Vicarage,
Borde Hill,
Westerham TN16 1TL

Westerham Evangelical Church* Mrs Strickett
The Bramblings,
Buckham Thorns,
Westerham TN16 1ET

Wrotham St George (C of E) Rev Brenda Hurd
The Rectory, 01732 882211
Borough Green Road,
Wrotham, TN15 7RA

Although the formal Salvation Army presence in Sevenoaks ceased in
2003, Dianne Jarrett can be contacted as link person at:
71 Riding Park
Hildenborough
Kent TN11 9JD 01732 838226

(C of E) 01732 452112
The Vicarage,
59 Kippington Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 2LL

Sevenoaks St Nicholas* (C of E) Mr Martin Levett
Church Office, (Administrator)
Rectory Lane, 01732 740340
Sevenoaks TN13 1JA

Sevenoaks St Thomas of Fr Richard Harvey
Canterbury* (RC) 01732 454177
The Presbytery,
12 Granville Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Sevenoaks Society of Friends Dr Sydney Beech
3 Nightingale Road 01959 523430
Kemsing, TN15 6RU

Sevenoaks Vine Baptist Church* Mrs Sally Adams
Church Office, (Church Administrator)
Park Lane 01732 740634
Sevenoaks TN13 3UV

Sevenoaks Vine Evangelical Rev Simon Duan
Church* 01732 453209
7 Lakeview Road
Sevenoaks TN13 3EH

Sevenoaks Vineyard Church* Mr Tony Cornfield
7 Bradbourne Vale 01732 452062
Road, Sevenoaks
TN13 3QQ

Shipbourne St Giles (C of E) Rev Dr Susan Ramsaran
with Plaxtol The Rectory, 01732 810319
The Street
Plaxtol
Kent TN15 0QG

Shoreham St Peter & St Paul Rev Richard Freeman



CTSD supports Fair Trade

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"There is ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."
from Ephesians 4:4-5, NIV

Chairman's Letter 2004-2005

Dear Friends,

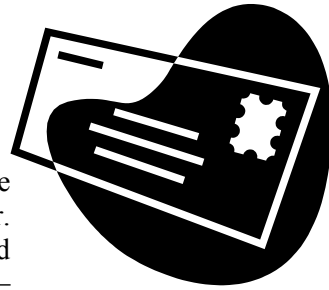
CTSD has had another eventful year – and one which we trust has brought God great honour. Firstly, at last year's AGM we were privileged to hear from the Acorn Christian Listeners – and perhaps partly because of them, the Group for Social Concern launched last month a Befrienders Scheme. Secondly there was that amazing sell-out last December for the Festival of Carols at the Sevenoaks Playhouse (as it now is). Well done Dianne and your team for all your work and confidence that it would indeed be the success it was.

Had it not been for the CTSD sponsored Question-Time in May, there would have been no open forum for members of the public to challenge together those who wanted to become MP for Sevenoaks. We apologise to those whose questions weren't chosen, but we tried to make the questions as specific but as wide-ranging as possible – and from those set, the answers given by the candidates were pretty – or not so pretty! - revealing! Later in May, in line with its concern for non-churchy issues, CTSD agreed to become a Fairtrade organisation.

A group of the more evangelical churches has formed SEEDS, and are laying on a programme of evangelistic outreach events, with the express intention of inviting those who are less sure of what a great God we serve. We are pleased that at this AGM SEEDS is applying to become more formally linked to the Churches Together movement – perhaps as a Body in Association to CTSD

More recently CTSD have issued a prayer leaflet naming on different days concerns, including all our churches – please let's use the prayers, and *listen* for God's concerns and his answers.

It is probably true that not one of the above ventures – or indeed any of CTSD's activities - is 100% supported by all the churches. None of us can do everything, and indeed Paul's metaphor in Romans 12 of us being but limbs or organs of one body – Christ's body - implies that no local church should be involved in everything. What is important is that despite our slightly different emphases (and compared to the great God we all confess, the differences are slight) we not only work together, but honour each other. Some of the most difficult Scriptural verses to live out are Philippians 2: 3-4, where Paul exhorts us to consider others better than ourselves. How easy



(with St John, Dunton Green)
St Mary's Vicarage, 01732 455736
The Glebe Field,
Shoreham Lane,
Sevenoaks TN13 3DR

Seal St Peter & St Paul* interregnum
(C of E) 01732 762955
The Vicarage,
Church Street, Seal,
Sevenoaks TN15 0AR

Seal Chart St Lawrence* (C of E) Rev Michael Cooke
St Lawrence Vicarage, 01732 761766
Stone Street, Seal,
Sevenoaks TN15 0LQ

Sevenoaks Christ Church* (URC) Rev Ken Thom
78 Marlborough Crescent 01732 453405
Sevenoaks TN13 2HR

Sevenoaks The Drive Methodist Rev Peter Hills
Church* 01732 452870
6 The Drive,
Sevenoaks TN13 3AE

Sevenoaks St John the Baptist* Rev Robin Ward
(C of E) 01732 451710
St John's Vicarage,
62 Quakers Hall Lane,
Sevenoaks TN13 3TX

Sevenoaks St John's Hill* (URC) Rev Ken Thom
78 Marlborough Crescent 01732 453405
Sevenoaks TN13 2HR

Sevenoaks St Luke* (C of E) Rev Robert Chavner
St Luke's Vicarage, 01732 452462
Eardley Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1XT

Sevenoaks St Mary, Kippington * Rev Stephen Jones

The Rectory 01322 863050
6 Pollyhaugh
Eynsford, DA4 0BE

Halstead St Margaret* (C of E) Rev Michael Woodcock
The Rectory, 01959 532133
Church Road, Halstead,
Sevenoaks TN14 7HQ

Ide Hill see Sundridge

Ightham St Peter (Cof E)* Rev Patrick McGrath
The Rectory, Bates Hill 01732 884176
Ightham TN15 9BG

Kemsing St Mary (C of E) Rev Nigel Ashworth
The Vicarage, 01732 761351
High Street, Kemsing,
Sevenoaks TN15 6PY

Knockholt St Katherine* (C of E) Rev Michael Woodcock
The Rectory, 01959 532133
Church Road, Halstead,
Sevenoaks TN14 7HQ

Oxford Methodist Church* Rev Kath Pawlett
18 The Old Walk, 01959 522196
Oxford TN14 5PP

Oxford St Bartholomew* (C of E) Rev Pat Hopkins
The Vicarage, 01959 523185
The Green,
Oxford TN14 5PD

Platt St Mary (C of E) Rev John Dray
The Vicarage, 01732 885482
Comp Lane, Platt,
Sevenoaks TN15 8NR

Plaxtol see Shipbourne

Riverhead St Mary* (C of E) Rev Paul Francis

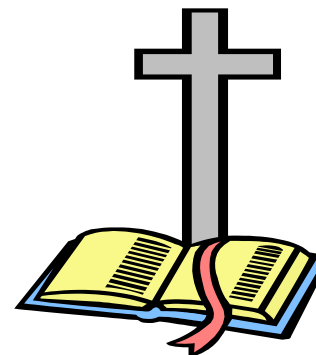
it is to put limits on our estimation of other Christians – limits which Paul doesn't mention. Indeed in the following verses he says Jesus Christ made himself *nothing*. What would making ourselves nothing mean for us as individuals, or as church fellowships? A more Christ-like church for his world?

Yours in Christ

Michael

PS This year I have a personal thank you to those from different churches who work together practically. It was thanks to the help given by a group of young people from different churches taking part in the Social Action Day – people who were on hand because they thought they would be preparing a garden for the reception class at my local school - that St Lawrence Church was spared further damage in the lightning strike on May Bank Holiday. Working together, being together is not only right for God – but has practical benefits too! Which, when we think about it, is as it should be in God's world!

Michael Cooke - Chairman



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SEVENOAKS AND DISTRICT
Minutes of the Second Annual General Meeting
held at St John's Hill URC, Sevenoaks on Thursday 11 November 2004

Present: 50 names appear on the register, from 21 churches.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The Chairman, Rev Dr Michael Cooke, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Rev Ken Thom (St John's Hill and Christ Church URC) and the speakers, Pat Dale and Julia Johnson from Acorn Christian Listeners, and received apologies from:

Father Richard Harvey (St Thomas), Gill Clayton (The Drive), Mike Smith (Christ Church URC and Treasurer, Christian Aid), Simon Duan (VEC), Chris Stiven (VEC), Michael Howard (St George, Weald), Judith Cork (SAYT) and Anne Straight (St Mary, Riverhead and Sevenoaks Deanery Synod Ecumenical Rep).

2. Opening Devotions were led by Rev Ken Thom.

3. Agreement of agenda and AOB: The agenda was agreed. There were two additional items.

4. Minutes of the Second AGM of Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District held on 6 November 2003

These had been circulated. The Minutes were proposed by Douglas Seal, seconded by Miranda Cormack, and approved unanimously by the meeting.

5. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

6. Annual Reports

The Chairman directed the attention of the meeting to the reports. John Brooks commented that the Literature Project Fund for 2004 was still short of donations compared to 2003 and that he would be pleased to receive any further contributions. The May Bank Holiday Community Action Day organised by Sevenoaks Churches Group for Social Concern was particularly commended. An amendment to the telephone number for St Martin, Brasted was noted, the new number being 01959 565829. The Secretary was thanked for all her hard work in compiling the reports. The reports were all proposed, seconded and adopted by the meeting.

7. Adoption of Accounts

The CTSD Accounts for the year to 30 September 2004 had been circulated in the Annual Report together with the Independent Examiner's report. Douglas Seal, Treasurer, reported that finances were healthy and that, once again, subscriptions to CTSD were not to be increased (town churches - £12; country churches - £8). The Independent Examiner's signed report was lodged with the Secretary. The Treasurer was thanked for all his hard work and care. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Rob Marsh and seconded by Miranda Cormack, and the accounts were adopted unanimously.

Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District
List of Members

(email addresses, websites and local maps are given on our website: www.ctsd.org.uk)

* signifies that, as of October 2005 these are the churches which have returned a signed Declaration and paid an annual subscription.

Other churches listed are those which have paid an annual subscription.

Names given are those provided by the churches as the CTSD contact. Where none has been provided the name of the Incumbent or the Church Secretary has been used.

Bessels Green Bessels Green Rev Neil Durling
Baptist Church* 01732 454921
Bessels Green Baptist
Church Office, Bessels
Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2PS

Borough Green Church of the Good Rev Tony Powell
Shepherd (C of E) 01732 882447
The Vicarage,
24 Maidstone Road,
Borough Green, TN15 8BD

Brasted St Martin (C of E) Rev Penny Stephens
The Rectory, Brasted 01959 565829
Westerham TN16 1NR

Chevening St Botolph* (C of E) Rev Chris Johnson
The Rectory, 01732 453555
Homedean Road,
Chipstead TN13 2RU

Dunton Green Free Church* Pastor Kenneth Kemp
12 The Beeches, 01634 666346
Chatham, ME5 0NS

Dunton Green St John (C of E) see Riverhead

Eynsford St Martin (C of E) Rev N Taylor

with Methodists, Anglicans, Assemblies of God and United Reformed Church congregations.

In addition to the Carecells mentioned last year in Rusthall, Lenham, Sevenoaks and Poole, there are now Carecells meeting in Dartford, Tunbridge Wells, Gillingham, Ashburnham and Holsworthy, with others planned to start in early 2006 in Tunbridge Wells (a different Church) and Bristol.

This year, Leadership training has been and is currently being given to folk from seven congregations

It may be interesting for members to know of some of the background thinking which has led such a diverse collection of congregations to run with the Carecell model.

- One Church (Anglican) was aware of a county-wide mission due to take place in 2006 and became aware that if friends were invited to mission events, they had no existing strategy or means to further the growth of new Christians into disciples of Christ who could be instrumental in winning others.

- Another Church, having seen amazing success (14 small groups) through using the Forty Days of Purpose (Purpose Driven Life) material, realised it had no means of continuing with purposeful small groups.

- In Bristol a congregation made the decision to build bridges with their community, but had no small group structure which was open to or effective with unchurched people.

- Having experienced the discipleship and outreach possibilities of the Carecell model in one of their Churches, a team ministry is now planting a Carecell in another of their congregations.

Alan currently attends / co-leads six Carecells each week, but the emphasis in his activities this year has been on training and equipping effective leaders who will be able to lead others.

Further information on Carecells and the Cell Enabling work which Alan undertakes under the auspices of the United Reformed Church Southern Synod's Medway District can be arranged by contacting Alan on 01732 463728 or by email at whartonmarsh@msn.com

Alan Wharton (Revd) September 2005

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The re-appointment of Mr Michael Richardson as Independent Examiner was unanimously agreed.

9. Caring at Christmas Fund

The amount of £639 in this Fund had been raised some years ago from the local churches and CTSD had been unable to use it due to lack of volunteers to organise a Christmas event. Since it seemed poor stewardship simply to hold on to the money, it was proposed to donate the fund to the Bridge Trust, which works locally with young homeless people, both at Christmas and throughout the year. The proposal was unanimously agreed by the meeting. **Action: Treasurer**

10. Election of Officers

(a) to Churches together in Sevenoaks & District Executive

Both the Chairman and Treasurer had served their 3-year term, but were willing to serve for a further 3-year term. Additional nominations were invited but none were put forward. Accordingly, the Chairman and Treasurer were re-elected, with the Chairman making it clear that anyone willing to consider taking on his role should approach him at any time. The Treasurer reminded the meeting that, since there were currently only two co-opted members on the Executive, there were another two possible co-options available should anyone be willing to serve on the Executive, but no nominations were forthcoming. The Meeting endorsed the gratitude expressed by Rev Kath Pawlett for all the Chairman's ongoing hard work and commitment.

(b) to Christian Aid Committee

The nomination of Mike Smith as Treasurer to the Christian Aid Committee was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

(c) to Sevenoaks & District Churches Group for Social Concern

The nominations of Tony Cornfield as Chairman, Miranda Cormack as Secretary, Rosemary Wakefield as Treasurer and Rita Bennett, Elaine Coupe and Vivienne Hall as Members were agreed unanimously.

11. Sevenoaks & District Group for Social Concern

Tony Cornfield referred to the Newsletter now produced by the Group and expressed the hope that this was being copied or circulated within local Churches. With reference to the very successful Community Action Day held on the 31st May Bank Holiday in 2004, Tony Cornfield informed the meeting that another such day was planned for 2005, when Christians from the area could put their faith to work in various projects around the community. Another initiative which the Group was considering was a "befriending" scheme, through which volunteers could get alongside people in need of help for perhaps a few

The business of the evening was halted for the interactive presentation of Acorn Christian Listeners, which demonstrated the importance of listening to God, ourselves. Examples were given of the kinds of situations in which Acorn Christian Listeners would be used in outreach to the community. Acorn Christian Listeners would be used from any churches or individuals who want to find out more. (C)

months at a difficult point in their lives. Currently, the Group were trying to decide whether such a scheme should be operated through a secular organisation such as the Volunteer Bureau or under a Christian umbrella and Tony Cornfield requested any views and also asked for prayer for this decision.

Action: All

12. CTSD Events and Publicity Group

Ailsa Walker made a plea for new members of the Group and particularly for a press officer to raise the profile of CTSD in the wider community. She also encouraged everyone to support the Festival of Carols at the Sevenoaks Playhouse on 30 November (which should be a sparkling occasion with the Gravesend Salvation Army Band, Walthamstow Hall Choir, Sevenoaks Handbell Ringers and St Mary Cray Timbrellists) and drew attention to the events associated with the 2005 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (a Taize Service at 7pm on Saturday 15 January at St Lawrence, Seal Chart; Lunchtime Prayers at 12.30pm on Tuesday 18 January at St Nicholas, Sevenoaks; and the main United Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 23 January at St Mary, Kippington). Thanks were given to all who contribute to the work of the Events and Publicity Group. Any churches which had not yet supplied details of their Christmas services were asked to send them in to Ailsa Walker as soon as possible.

Action: All

13. Christian Aid

Elsbeth Cooke, Secretary to the Christian Aid Committee, drew attention to the Carol Singing at 6:30pm on Friday 3 December for the evening of late night shopping. Singers would gather at the Clock Tower in Blighs Meadow and any extra voices would be welcomed. The meeting was asked to publicise this at their individual churches.

Action: All

14. Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust

Rob Marsh, Chairman of SAYT, reminded the meeting that SAYT were always happy to receive requests to talk about their work to local churches, schools or other organisations. Like the Churches Group for Social Concern, SAYT were now affiliated to Faithworks.

While he had the floor, Rob Marsh also spoke about the first item of Any Other Business (see 18 below). In early January there was to be a follow-on meeting from the Faithworks Event, where ministers and elders could discuss with Merle Bigden of Sevenoaks District Council how the churches could engage with local government, evaluate progress and move forward in partnership. The suggested date for the meeting was Thursday 13 January, 7:30 for 8pm, probably at St John's Hill URC.

15. Sevenoaks Churches Literature Project

John Brooks announced the project for 2005 as being a Feed the Minds project in Delhi, India to support a Christian organisation which provides training for the visually handicapped. Details of the project were distributed

Chairman. Revd Ken Thom was welcomed to the Fellowship representing the URC Churches at Christ Church and St John's.

The combined August evening services were held at Christ Church URC.

The Quarterly services were held as planned. On 2nd October 2005, the Autumn Service was at St Luke's.

The Advent Carol Service was held at St Luke's on 28th November 2004 and was very enjoyable. The combined choir under the leadership of Paul Jeffery sang with enthusiasm as usual and the music was of a very high standard. In 2005, this service will be hosted by St Mary, Riverhead.

NWF Christmas leaflets were again printed for us by Steve Hill (St Luke's) but the distribution was late and it has been decided to review the way in which Christmas services are publicised before Christmas 2005.

In Lent, the Midweek Meeting with frugal lunch has been held for the past two years in each of the churches of the fellowship. This year, for the second time, a Silent Witness Walk took place on Good Friday which concluded with a short time of prayer and singing at Bligh's Meadow and was well supported.

The service in Christian Aid Week was held at St Luke's.

Mrs Jennifer Jackson - Secretary

Cell Church Ministry Report

As far as developments in the Sevenoaks area are concerned, this year has seen a partial multiplication. One of our Carecell members, having been appointed Local Leader of a congregation in Gillingham, has launched 2 new Carecells there, but there is still regular contact when the Leadership Cell meets on a monthly basis.

Exciting new developments have taken place this year in places as far apart as Holsworthy (Devon) and Ashburnham (East Sussex). In terms of cross-denominational working Alan is currently working

Report from the Sevenoaks Town Council Youth Services Sub-Committee



The Town Council sets aside £20,000 each year to assist local organisations providing services for young people, generally between the ages of 12 and 20 years. Applications are invited from youth groups and other organisations to support work that enhances good youth work practice, enabling wider opportunities for young people in the town. Requests are also considered to help support individual young people to achieve personal goals.

The number of successful applications normally comes nowhere near exhausting that money and it is certain that opportunities are being missed – perhaps because people are not aware of the fund's existence.

This year, however, a major grant was made to support the Youth Theatre at Sevenoaks Playhouse.

Projects supported this year were :-

Sevenoaks Junior Hockey Club Strip
Jack Cade's Rebellion Materials, props, sets and costumes
Individual World Challenge trip to Vietnam
Individual Trampolining training
Individual Latin Link trip to Brazil
Youth Theatre Equipment
Sevenoaks RUFC Summer Training Camp
VSU Youth in Action Holiday Scheme

Grants are normally between £200 and £2,000

Please contact our representative, Chris Walker, for further information. (01732 762037 chris@blairbuie.co.uk)

North West Fellowship of Churches Annual Report 2004-2005

Throughout the year the members of the Fellowship took part in the customary quarterly services and combined August evening services.

In September 2004, Revd Peter Hills was appointed as the

for consideration by the local churches. Thanks were expressed for all John Brooks' hard work.

Action: All

16. Drop-in Centre

Chris Walker reminded the meeting that last year it had been agreed that the Treasurer could handle any funds donated for the feasibility study for a Drop-in Centre. However, a single benefactor had offered the £5,000 required for the feasibility study so it had not been necessary to trouble the Treasurer. A further pledge of funding had also been made. The study had been carried out by the Kent Architecture Centre and a report was due to be produced in a few weeks' time. Anyone wishing to see a copy of the report should contact Chris Walker. Although the report had been compiled in consultation with a good number of people, not many of these were the young people whom such a Drop-in Centre was particularly intended to reach, so it was hoped to run a pilot study using the premises of a Town Centre retailer after hours to gauge the reaction of young people. Meanwhile, The Drive Methodist Church has invited the Primary Care Trust to use their Cornwall Hall to offer health services for young people. These two services were to be offered in tandem.

17. Lent House Groups

Pat Harman announced that the ecumenical house groups for Lent 2005 would be studying the York Course entitled "Better Together" looking at our relationships with each other and with God, and encouraged everyone to think about attending. Invitations would be sent out to previous attendees and to all member churches, and newcomers would be very welcome. For anyone interested in finding out more, the first point of contact was Dianne Jarrett, tel. 01732 838226.

18. AOB

A follow-up meeting to the Faithworks event: see 14 above.

The Chairman passed on a request from Churches Together in Kent for priests/ministers/pastors to volunteer as Chaplains to the Fire & Rescue service. Anyone interested should contact the Chairman.

19. Date of next AGM

It was agreed that the next AGM should be on the evening of **Thursday 10 November 2005**.

20. Closing Devotions: The Chairman closed in prayer.

Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2004

2003 2004

£ £ £ £

344 Subscriptions (See Note 1) 340

0 Sundry Donation 20

101 Deposit Interest 110

445 470

Deduct:

209 General Expenses, Postage & Stationery 142

144 Churches Together in Kent Subscriptions 144

119 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Expenses 59

472 345

(27) Surplus (Deficit) for the Year 125

==== =====

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2004

2003 2004

£ £ £ £

GENERAL FUND:

843 Balance at 1 October 2003 816 (27) Surplus (Deficit) for the year 125

816 941

PUBLICITY FUND

2330 Balance at 1 October 2003 2065

54 Ministers' Fraternal Fund 54

360 Contributions from Churches 370

2744 2489

(625) Less: Costs incurred (456)

2119 2033

CTSD LITERATURE FUND

774 Balance at 1 October 2003 1259

2355 Contributions from Churches 1395

3129 2654

(1870) Less: Paid to Feed the Minds re. 2003 (1709)

1259 945

639 CARING AT CHRISTMAS FUND 639 _____

4833 4558

==== =====

4833 Represented by: Balances at Bank 4558

==== =====

NOTES:

1. Subscriptions in 2004 were as follows: Town Churches £12, Country Churches £8. It is proposed that subscriptions remain at this level for 2005.

D. C. Seal - Treasurer

Confidentiality, Referral & Support, and Sharing Faith. By the summer there were 15 people ready and awaiting CRB police checks, in order to become the initial **Befrienders** Team at the launch on 20th October.

Two community grants totalling £1,000 have been applied for and all the local churches have been asked to give financial support, to secure start-up and first year funding. Cheques should be made payable to Sevenoaks Churches Group for Social Concern please.

...

The **2nd Community Action Day** was held on Bank Holiday Monday 30th May, and once again there was tremendous support from local churches as over 100 Christians were out and about, serving our neighbourhood.

Litter and rubbish were cleared from Sevenoaks Community Centre, behind Bat & Ball Station and Otford Fete; 6 local families had their gardens blitzed; 2 schools, a scout group and a playgroup were helped.

...

We trust that the **Compassion** Newsletter is keeping everyone informed and up to date.

Tony Cornfield Chairman
Miranda Cormack Secretary
Rosemary Wakefield Treasurer
Elaine Coupe Executive
Rita Bennett Executive
Vivienne Hall Executive

the meeting on the subject of Spirituality and Counselling.

Maureen King - Director of Counselling



**Sevenoaks Churches
Group for Social
Concern 2004-2005**

The year began in earnest with a meeting on Thursday 13th January, at which church leaders and representatives met with Merle Bigden from **Sevenoaks District Council**, to discuss ways in which churches and the council could better understand each other's involvement in the local community and work more creatively together.

It was encouraging to hear the council's openness to and desire for greater involvement and co-operation from the faith community.

Following the meeting, information was passed on to Sevenoaks District Council detailing the current involvement of almost all local churches in every area of community life.

Also as a consequence, SDC invited representation from **Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District** to be involved in the Community Planning Partnership.

...

This Spring saw the birth of an idea that had been incubating for over six months a **Christian Befriending Scheme**. At our Spring meeting on 14th March, Tony Cornfield, the group's chairman, introduced the exciting potential of this new Churches Together initiative. Such was the response that just 5 weeks later, there was a follow-up meeting where 30 interested people explored the potential together.

During June and July, 20 people from 7 different churches underwent preparatory training in: Active Listening, Boundaries &

Independent Examiner's Report

The report on the funds of Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District for the year ended 30th September 2004 is set out on the preceding page and is in respect of an examination carried out under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993.

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

As members of Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District you are responsible for maintaining records and the preparation of the appropriate accounts. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. This examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Treasurer and a comparison of the accounts with those records. The procedures undertaken do not provide evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

M J Richardson

Chartered Accountant

19 Mount Harry Road,

Sevenoaks

10 October 2004

**Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District
Officers and Executive Committee 2004 – 2005**

OFFICERS:

Chairman (From 2001)

Rev Dr Michael Cooke St Lawrence Vicarage
Seal Chart and Underriver (CofE) Stone Street
01732 761766 Sevenoaks TN15 0LQ

Treasurer (From 2001)

Mr Douglas Seal 12 Holmesdale Road
St John the Baptist (CofE) Sevenoaks TN13 3XL
01732 456124

Secretary (From 2002)

Mrs Lis Lidbetter 1 Brittain's Lane
St Nicholas (CofE) Sevenoaks TN13 2JN
01732 454012

COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES:

Ministers' Fraternal Vacant

Christian Aid Mr Stephen & Mrs Jean Day
St Mary Kippington (CofE)

Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service Mrs Maureen King
Bessels Green Baptist Church

Sevenoaks Churches Group for Social Concern Lady Miranda Cormack
St George, Weald (CofE)

Sevenoaks Churches Literature Project Mr John Brooks
Christ Church URC

North West Fellowship Vacant (Volunteers welcomed)

Cell Church Ministry Alan Wharton

Co-opted Members Dr Sydney Beech
Society of Friends

Mrs Anne Straight
St Mary Riverhead (CofE)

Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District has chosen to become a Fair Trade organisation and, as such, undertakes to try to use Fair Trade goods wherever possible and, in particular, to try to ensure that Fair Trade tea and coffee are served at all its meetings.



**Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service
2004 - 2005**

In last year's report, I commented on the growing demand for professional counselling from SCCS. In fact, the trend has continued and our statistics show that in 2004 there were almost 2,400 client sessions - a 30% increase on numbers in 2002. This, we believe, reflects a greater need for counselling in our community, and the genuine esteem in which the SCCS is held.

We are now faced with the problem (or 'challenge' as our Chairman, Stephen Scott, prefers to call it) of what to do about the increasing pressure on our premises at the Bridge. Due to the generosity of the church family at Christ Church URC, we have been given the opportunity to convert a downstairs room to provide us with additional counselling rooms, a waiting area and a reception room. We are looking to the generosity of friends and supporters as well as seeking donations from trusts and other bodies to finance this exciting venture. Do contact me at the SCCS office if you would like to receive further information.

2004 saw the start of SCCS providing Professional Development days for qualified practitioners, and these are proving to be so popular that we plan to offer three or four each year. Thanks must go here to those church families who have made their premises available for us to use, thus keeping costs down. Vine Evangelical Church has been an excellent venue. Our own 'Counselling Skills for Pastoral Care' course, which took place at Bessels Green Baptist Church, again drew in those with a pastoral heart who were seeking new understanding and skills to enable them to be more effective in their caring for others. Thanks to BGBC for its generous provision of premises.

I could not end this report without mentioning our Open Public Meeting held in May 2005. Again, thanks to yet another church - St Mary's, Kippington - for allowing us to use their new centre for the meeting. Contributions were made by Locality Officer for South West Kent, Angela Painter, by Tony Cornfield from Vineyard and by some of our own staff. Our guest speaker, Andrew Walker, was well received and provided both thoughtful and insightful input to

further stall was held the next day at Riverhead Carnival and the splendid overall total raised was over £350.

- ◆ A new event in October was a Cheese and Wine Evening with a Silent Auction. This was planned as both a social and fund-raising event with donations of both goods and promises to auction.

Make Poverty History

As part of the MakePovertyHistory campaign, Christian Aid focussed especially on Trade Justice. 2005 is a critical year for this campaign with the G8 meeting in Scotland and the UK presidency of the EU in the latter part of the year. During the year, we have been collecting votes for Trade Justice through the churches and, during the Global Week of Action for Trade Justice in April, at a public voting booth on Bligh's Meadow. Sevenoaks representatives were among the 250,000 who took part in the Make Poverty History march in Edinburgh before the G8 meeting.

Future Plans

A Spring Market is planned for **Saturday 8th April 2006** and we hope for enthusiastic support from the churches.

Finance

In the year ended 31st March 2005, a total of over £32,000 was sent to Christian Aid. This is a remarkable increase of over 13% on last year. Full accounting details have been submitted separately to Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District.

Thank you.

- to all those who supported Christian Aid during the year, especially the Volunteer Collectors for Christian Aid Week.
- to local churches who allowed us to use their premises for Christian Aid events without charge.
- to Rosemary Cracknell, the churches' correspondent for Sevenoaks Chronicle for regularly publicising Christian Aid events in her column.

John Lane - Chairman
Elspeth Cooke - Secretary
Mike Smith - Treasurer

Events And Publicity Group

The Events and Publicity Group has continued its work, with many of the events being regulars and the publicity side of things being handled almost entirely by Lis, Secretary of CTSD. The thrice yearly newsletter is sent to all churches and we do encourage you to copy it for distribution and to use extracts for your own publications, so that the work of CTSD may be made known, and the events supported by as many as possible.

We hope that you will have also seen the CTSD Prayer Plan which was sent out to all the churches in September. We would be very interested to receive any feedback on this project which is designed to encourage us all to be praying for each other's churches and for the needs of the community of Sevenoaks and District, to the greater glory of God.

At Christmas time 2004 there was once more an excellent crib scene, with a greeting from the churches, in a shop window in London Road. This was followed by an Easter scene in 2005, which was much appreciated, and an offer from the shop concerned to have harvest and other displays should we wish. We welcome this as an opportunity to engage in some small way with the wider community.

Following the closure of the Salvation Army Corps in Sevenoaks, CTSD undertook the arrangements for the annual Festival of Carols at the Sevenoaks Playhouse. **[Details are given elsewhere in this report]** but it should be noted that, while the Group was responsible for planning the event, in reality Dianne Jarrett continued the work she had been involved in for many years, to bring the evening to fruition. The Lent Groups, reported overleaf, were again organised under the auspices of the Group, but all the real work was done by Pat Harman, Dianne Jarrett and Isobel White.

The theme and materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity had been chosen by the churches of Slovakia: we were encouraged to think, with Christians all over the world, about the common foundations of our faith. At the United Service at St Mary, Kippington, a choir of 50, from 8 different churches, led the singing under the direction of Len Ross. Fr. Wilfrid McGreal preached in his retirement year. Lunchtime prayers at St Nicholas on the Tuesday

were very well supported and the now regular Taize service at St Lawrence, Seal was well attended and much appreciated.

On Good Friday, the Vigil on the Vine was based on scriptural meditations prepared by Chris Stiven of Vine Evangelical Church and about 35 people attended during the hour, witnessing quietly around the cross. In the evening, Music for Good Friday was led by a choir of 60 from 11 churches, under the guidance of Nancy Wolfe.

The Group is grateful to all those who worked hard to make these events so welcoming and meaningful.

Looking to the future, we would welcome some "new blood" in the Group to keep fresh ideas circulating and there is also still a vacancy for someone to keep in touch with the activities of CTSD and produce the occasional press release for the local media. Please consider whether you could do this.

Miranda Cormack, St George, Weald
Pat Harman, St Thomas RC
Dianne Jarrett, Salvation Army
Lis Lidbetter, St Nicholas
Valerie Ruddle, The Drive Methodist
Ailsa Walker, St John's Hill URC



Lent House Groups - March 2005
'Better Together'

Following on from the success of the Ecumenical Lent Course in 2003 and 2004, we once again chose to use a York Course; this time exploring relationships.

We have looked carefully at other courses which are available but none quite seemed to fit the bill as well as the York Course, which offers comments from a wide range of contributors across the denominations. Those who are "regulars" on the Lent course are becoming very comfortable in each other's company; sharing is getting easier and strength is being drawn from the greater



Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid Committee
Report 2004 – 2005

This year, Christian Aid celebrates 60 years of working alongside poor, marginalised and oppressed communities. Several members of the local Christian Aid Committee attended a Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral. As Christian Aid continues to challenge and tackle the causes and effects of poverty and to help change the world for good, Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid Committee plans events at a local level towards fulfilling these aims.

Events and Activities

The main activity of the committee is the House-to-house collection and Station Collection during Christian Aid Week which this year raised the excellent total of just under £26,888, a slight increase on last year and which, with tax recovery through Gift Aid, exceeds £30,000. Given the generous response to the Tsunami appeal in the Sevenoaks area, this increased total is particularly remarkable. At the Commissioning Service for the Week, the Communications Officer from Christian Aid responsible for countries affected by the Tsunami gave us a moving, but encouraging account of how people are rebuilding their communities with the help of agencies like Christian Aid.

During the year several other events were held - some regular features of our programme, but also some more recently introduced ventures.

- ◆ Once again we were invited to sing Carols in central Sevenoaks on the late night Christmas shopping evening and about 40 singers made a joyful noise and raised almost £100.
- ◆ A Lent frugal lunch at which Christian Aid's Area Representative for Kent told us about her visit to the Congo and updated us on the very serious situation in the country and Christian Aid's work there.
- ◆ Two stalls were held on Bligh's Meadow. In June, there was a bric-a-brac stall at Sevenoaks Charity Fair and in September, a cake stall as part of the regular Saturday morning market. So many mouth-watering home made cakes were donated that a

We were also grateful for a grant from SDC's Community Grant Scheme.

However, the gradual depletion of our financial reserves is causing increasing concern to the Trustees and they are actively exploring additional sources of funding.

Judith, Jane and the Trustees remain very keen to visit local churches to explain the work of the Trust and to encourage them either to initiate or continue their support.

During the year, our founder Treasurer, Barbara Furley, stood down. The Trustees are very grateful to her for the conscientious way in which she carried out her duties, which for a long time included acting as Line Manager to Judith. We were delighted to accept the offer of Jean-Pierre Darque to succeed her.

Another cause for gratitude, particularly as far as the writer is concerned, was the offer by Sue Baldwin to take on the role of Communications Officer. Her first Newsletter was in circulation early in the summer and will be followed by other initiatives designed to improve our hitherto less than satisfactory communication mechanisms.

We have identified another volunteer to accompany Jane and Judith on their detached work – but we still need more to increase our scope and flexibility. Could you be one of them?

The Lord has answered many of the prayer requests made in our last report, but we appeal for continued prayer, particularly for a resolution to the Trust's financial situation. It would be extremely disappointing if the good foundations we have laid in the last four years cannot be built upon.

Our contact details are:

judith@sayt.org.uk 07905 963758

jane@sayt.org.uk 07905 963759

Sue Baldwin - saytnews@sayt.org.uk

Chris Walker, Secretary to the Trustees - secretary@sayt.org.uk

www.sayt.org.uk

Chris Walker - Secretary to the Trustees

fellowship we are enjoying.

The feedback from the groups has been very positive, many saying that there was almost too much material to work with. Most found the speakers interesting and sometimes provocative, which is surely what we need to be exploring, if we are going to be able to make our faith relevant to today's world, which sees no need of faith at all.

Clearly the larger size of groups has been enjoyed, as it enables discussion to be lively, even when all cannot be present.

General comments were that all those who took part appreciated discussions with other denominations and many have commented that they would like this to continue in other ways. Also, they would be happy to encourage others to join in next year.

Therefore our overall evaluation is that this has been another successful course. There were 66 participants. Many Churches from across the locality were represented, from 7 denominations. This year there were 7 groups, meeting from Mondays to Thursdays for five weeks.

Our hopes and prayers are for this ecumenism to grow, and with Easter two weeks later next year (allowing us longer after Christmas to broadcast the details) it should be possible to throw the net even wider to include more churches and therefore to have greater strength in depth. [Apologies for mixed Biblical metaphors.]

D.Jarrett, P.Harman and I.White - Organisers

CTSD Literature Project 2004 - 2005

The 2004 appeal was to support a Feed The Minds project helping to fund the provision of Christian literacy material for reconciliation training for around 500 young men and women in the Bo region of Sierra Leone.

A total of £2,885 (£2,869 in 2003) was collected by Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District and passed to Feed The Minds.



The 15 member churches contributing directly (11 in 2003) were:

St Luke, Sevenoaks
St Nicholas, Sevenoaks
St Botolph, Chevening
St Mary, Kippington
The Drive Methodist, Sevenoaks
Seal St Lawrence
St Martin, Brasted
St John the Baptist, Sevenoaks
Otford Methodist
Christ Church URC, Sevenoaks
St John's Hill URC, Sevenoaks
St Bartholomew, Otford
St Giles, Shipbourne with Plaxtol
St Thomas RC, Sevenoaks
St Katherine, Knockholt

The 2005 project, as agreed at the CTSD AGM in November 2004, is to support a Feed The Minds project which is being led by the Discipleship Centre in India. This is a Christian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded 30 years ago to work with people who were marginalised, visually impaired and affected by leprosy or victims of natural disasters. It works in the urban slums of Delhi and in villages of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Our project is to assist with the training of visually handicapped young people to use computers and software packages.

All remittances should be sent to the Project Organiser: John Brooks, 15 The Close, Montreal Park, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2HE. Cheques for the Literature Project should be made payable to Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District or CTSD. Personal CAF cheques should be made payable to Feed The Minds.

It is hoped to announce the project for 2006 at the CTSD Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10th November 2005.

John Brooks - Project Organiser

SAYT - Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust

This has been a year of consolidation as well as development.

Jane has been undertaking a counselling course and Judith has successfully completed the third year of her Oasis training course.

Close co-operation continues with the new KCC Detached Youth Worker, Tony Pearson, and also with Maria White of the Kenward Trust's Grey Zebra drugs counselling project.

SAYT's reputation continues to grow and we are represented on a number of multi-agency committees such as the Youth Action Group.

Judith is involved, with other agencies, in the regular SNAP discos held at the Community Centre.

The partnership between SAYT and St Mary's Kemsing in respect of Jane continues to work well.

Both Jane and Judith were involved with the Pilot activities for the proposed Drop In Centre in Sevenoaks.

SAYT's links with the local secondary schools developed during the year to include delivery of a KCC drugs education programme and the running of Youth Alpha at Bradbourne School, and a lunchtime Drop In at Wildernesse School – the latter activity drawing very favourable comment from the Head Teacher.

An exciting development has been the formation by Jane and Tony of a basketball team from amongst their contacts in Greatness. They won a competition in Canterbury and subsequently established a club at Wildernesse Sports Centre with the support of professional coaches.

Our third AGM in June was held at St Luke's Church and was attended by a small but enthusiastic group of supporters.

We are very grateful to Penny Boshoff who has been confirmed in the role of Line Manager to both Jane and Judith.

We are grateful for the level of financial support we receive from local churches but are approaching the time when initial pledge terms expire and we will need to seek renewal of and, hopefully, increases in those pledges.