



Annual Report

November 2009

**We're on the web
www.ctsd.org.uk**

For use at the Open AGM held
12th November 2009
at The URC Church (St John's Hill),
Sevenoaks
(7.30 for 8pm)

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Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District is 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.



| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Shoreham | St Peter & St Paul (C of E) The Vicarage, Station Road, Shoreham TN14 7SA | Rev Richard Freeman 01959 522363 |
| Sundridge with Ide Hill | St Mary (C of E) The Rectory Chevening Road Sundridge, TN14 6AB | Rev David Attwood 01959 563749 |
| Underriver | St Margaret* (C of E) St Lawrence Vicarage, Stone Street, Seal, Sevenoaks TN15 0LQ | Rev Michael Cooke 01732 761766 |
| Weald | St George* (C of E) St George's Vicarage, Church Road Weald TN14 6LT | Rev Serena Willoughby 01732 459316 |
| Westerham | St Mary the Virgin (C of E) The Vicarage, Borde Hill, Westerham TN16 1TL | Rev Paul McVeagh 01959 563127 |
| Westerham | Evangelical Church* The Bramblings, Buckham Thorns, Westerham TN16 1ET | Mrs Strickett |
| West Kingsdown | St Edmund* (C of E) The Rectory, School Lane, West Kingsdown TN15 6JL | Rev Judy Thurlow 01474 852265 |

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

Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District Officers and Executive Committee 2008 – 2009

OFFICERS:

| | |
|---|--|
| Chairman | vacant |
| Treasurer (From 2001) Mr Douglas Seal St John the Baptist (CofE) 01732 456124 | 12 Holmesdale Road Sevenoaks TN13 3XL |
| Secretary (From 2002 –9) Mrs Lis Lidbetter St Nicholas (CofE) 01732 454012 | Position now vacant |

COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES:

| | |
|--|--|
| 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 Mary, Riverhead (CofE) |
| Sevenoaks Churches Literature Project | Mr John Lane Sevenoaks URC |
| North West Fellowship | Rev Paul Francis St Mary, Riverhead (CofE) |
| Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust | Dr Caroline Berry St Nicholas (CofE) |
| Seeds | Rev Neil Durling Bessels Green Baptist Church |
| Co-opted Members | Dr Sydney Beech Society of Friends Mrs Anne Straight St Mary Riverhead (CofE) |

So in Christ we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5 (NIV)

Chairman's Letter 2009

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to write this letter of introduction to the Annual Report of CTSD and I commend all it contains, and all the ministry and activity that lies behind the various reports, to your prayers.

Chairman and Secretary

I write in my capacity as temporary acting Chairman of CTSD, a role I have occupied for over a year now and it has been an honour to do so; but this must now come to an end. To reach its full potential CTSD needs a chairperson (to be non gender specific) who can be more focussed on its work than I am able – we will need to elect someone at this meeting.

CTSD has been very fortunate to benefit from the diligence, care and dedication of our secretary Lis Lidbetter for so long. We have been kept informed and well organised as a committee and as a body of Christians in Sevenoaks and the surrounding district in an exemplary way and we are very grateful – but, as Lis advised us last year, she will be stepping down as of this evening. This is an important role and vital to the functioning of CTSD and again we will need to appoint someone this evening.

Function and Purpose

At the last Annual Meeting, member churches confirmed that there was general support for the overarching aims of Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District and the various linked bodies (Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust, Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service, Sevenoaks Churches Group for Social Concern, Sevenoaks Christian Aid Committee, North West Fellowship and Seeds/HopeFest) and that existing ecumenical events in the calendar should continue. The dedicated work of the various linked bodies is a witness to the faith that unites us and to our common desire to demonstrate Christ's love for all.

HopeFest

We meet just before HopeFest goes 'live' so to speak. Many

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| Sevenoaks | St Thomas of Canterbury* (RC) The Presbytery, 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ER | Fr Richard Harvey 01732 454177 |
| Sevenoaks | Society of Friends 3 Nightingale Road Kemsing, TN15 6RU | Dr Sydney Beech 01959 523430 |
| Sevenoaks | Town Church* The Mill Lane Centre 128 Seal Road Sevenoaks TN14 5AX | Mark Hewett 01732 464456 |
| Sevenoaks | URC* at Christ Church and St John's Hill 78 Marlborough Crescent Sevenoaks TN13 2HR | Rev Ken Thom 01732 453405 |
| Sevenoaks | Vine Baptist Church* Church Office, Park Lane Sevenoaks TN13 3UV | Mrs Fiona Murray (Church Administrator) 01732 740634 |
| Sevenoaks | Vine Evangelical Church* 7 Lakeview Road Sevenoaks TN13 3EH | Rev Simon Duan 01732 453209 |
| Sevenoaks | Vineyard Church* 7 Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3QQ | Mr Tony Cornfield 01732 452062 |
| Shipbourne with Plaxtol | St Giles (C of E) The Rectory, The Street Plaxtol Kent TN15 0QG | Rev Andrew Procter 01732 810319 |

| | | |
|------------|--|---|
| Riverhead | St Mary* (C of E) (with St John, Dunton Green) St Mary's Vicarage, The Glebe Field, Shoreham Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 3DR | Rev Paul Francis 01732 455736 |
| Seal | St Peter & St Paul* (C of E) The Vicarage, Church Street, Seal, Sevenoaks TN15 0AR | Rev Anne Le Bas 01732 762955 |
| Seal Chart | St Lawrence* (C of E) St Lawrence Vicarage, Stone Street, Seal, Sevenoaks TN15 0LQ | Rev Michael Cooke 01732 761766 |
| Sevenoaks | The Drive Methodist Church* 6 The Drive, Sevenoaks TN13 3AE | Rev Peter Hills 01732 452870 |
| Sevenoaks | St John the Baptist* (C of E) St John's Vicarage, 62 Quakers Hall Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 3TX | Fr Ivan Aquilina 01732 451710 |
| Sevenoaks | St Luke* (C of E) St Luke's Vicarage, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1XT | Rev Mark Griffin 01732 452462 |
| Sevenoaks | St Mary, Kippington* (C of E) The Vicarage, 59 Kippington Road, Sevenoaks TN13 2LL | Rev David Kitley 01732 742942 |
| Sevenoaks | St Nicholas* (C of E) Church Office, Rectory Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 1JA | Mr Martin Levett (Administrator) 01732 740340 |

months of planning and preparation have culminated in HopeFest and kNOWHope and it must be the prayer not just of the many churches involved but of all churches and Christians in the area that these events would lead to many in Sevenoaks and District both renewing and finding faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The 'taster' evening on 3rd October was enjoyed by many and an encouragement to invite others along and our thanks and appreciation go to all who have organised and enabled this event.

Bodies in Association

Much activity goes on under the 'umbrella' of CTSD - the Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service, Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust and the Group for Social Concern are committed to helping those in need in our communities in many and varied ways and the establishment of the Befrienders, the Sevenoaks Debt Advice Centre and the Child Contact Centre, which have all sprung from the work of the Group for Social Concern, are particularly exciting recent developments. The local Christian Aid Committee continues to work tirelessly to raise funds and to increase awareness of the needs of those in the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of the world.

A shared ministry

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to ongoing collaboration between the churches in the area and to the varied inter-church gatherings (such as the events in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and on Good Friday and the ecumenical gatherings in smaller groupings such as the North West Fellowship and amongst the village churches). More details of all these topics can be found in the attached annual reports so please read and enjoy. Thanks, too, to Michael Cooke who continues to update the CTSD website: a vital means of communication in our world today.

Paul Francis
October 2009

**Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting
held at Sevenoaks URC (St John's Hill),
on Thursday 13 November 2008**

Present: 40 names appear on the register, from 20 churches.

1. Welcome and Apologies:

The Chairman for the evening, John Lane, welcomed everyone to the meeting, drew attention to the table of Christian Aid material and the display of Traidcraft goods at the back of the hall, and received apologies from:

Fr Ivan Aquilina (*St John the Baptist, Sevenoaks*); Mary Cox (*CTSD Press Officer; Sevenoaks URC*); Rev Neil Durling (*Bessels Green Baptist Church*); Rev Richard Freeman (*St Peter and St Paul, Shoreham*); Rev Angus MacLeay (*St Nicholas, Sevenoaks*); John Quenby (*St Mary, Kemsing*); Ian Sowerby (*St Nicholas, Sevenoaks*); Anne Straight (*Sevenoaks Deanery Synod Ecumenical Representative*).

2. Opening Praise and Prayers were led by Revd. Paul Francis (*St Mary, Riverhead and Dunton Green*).

3. Agreement of agenda and AOB: The agenda was agreed. There was one additional item (see 15 below).

4. Minutes of the Sixth AGM of Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District held on 8 November 2007

These had been circulated. The Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

6. Annual Report

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the reports would be taken as read and that the activity groups and bodies in association would have the opportunity to give a brief update at item 14 below.

7. Adoption of Accounts

The CTSD Accounts for the year to 30 September 2008 had been circulated in the Annual Report together with the Independent Examiner's report. The Independent Examiner's signed report was lodged with the Secretary. The Treasurer and Independent Examiner were thanked for all their hard work. The accounts were adopted unanimously by the meeting.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The re-appointment of Mr Michael Richardson as Independent Examiner was proposed by Miranda Cormack, seconded by Revd. Ken Thom and unanimously agreed.

9. Christian Aid speaker

John Lane welcomed Colin Kemp, Christian Aid's legacy director, to the meeting. Colin read some verses from 1 John 3 and 4 which underpin

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| Dunton Green | St John (C of E) | see Riverhead |
| Eynsford | St Martin (C of E) The Rectory 6 Pollyhaugh Eynsford, DA4 0BE | 01322 863050 |
| Halstead | St Margaret* (C of E) The Rectory, Church Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks TN14 7HQ | Rev John Benson 01959 532133 |
| Ide Hill | see Sundridge | |
| Ightham | St Peter (Cof E)* The Rectory, Bates Hill Ightham TN15 9BG | Rev Stephen Jones 01732 886827 |
| Kemsing | St Mary (C of E) The Vicarage, High Street, Kemsing, Sevenoaks TN15 6PY | Rev James Oakley 01732 761351 |
| Knockholt | St Katherine* (C of E) The Rectory, Church Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks TN14 7HQ | Rev John Benson 01959 532133 |
| Otford | Methodist Church* 18 The Old Walk, Otford TN14 5PP | Rev Kath Pawlett 01959 522196 |
| Otford | St Bartholomew* (C of E) The Vicarage, The Green, Otford TN14 5PD | Rev Richard Worssam 01959 523185 |
| Platt | St Mary (C of E) The Vicarage, Comp Lane, Platt, Sevenoaks TN15 8NR | Rev Liz Walker 01732 885482 |
| Plaxtol | see Shipbourne | |

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 2009 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 Baptist Church* Bessels Green Baptist Church Office, Bessels Green, Sevenoaks TN13 2PS | Rev Neil Durling 01732 454921 |
| Borough Green | Church of the Good Shepherd (C of E) The Vicarage, 24 Maidstone Road, Borough Green, TN15 8BD | Rev Tony Powell 01732 882447 |
| Brasted | St Martin (C of E) The Rectory, Brasted Westerham TN16 1NR | Rev Penny Stephens 01959 565829 |
| Chevening | St Botolph* (C of E) The Rectory, Homedeane Road, Chipstead TN13 2RU | Rev Chris Smith 01732 453555 |
| Dunton Green | Bethel Free Christian Fellowship* 169 London Road Dunton Green TN13 2TA | David Kelsey 01732 462409 |
| Dunton Green | Free Church* 12 The Beeches, Chatham, ME5 0NS | Pastor Kenneth Kemp 01634 666346 |

Christian Aid's work and explained that, from the belief that the scale of poverty in the world is a scandal, Christian Aid seeks to change the things that make and keep people poor. They want to transform communities and attitudes, change trade rules and help limit climate change. As a result of campaigning work by Christian Aid supporters, amongst others, the Climate Change Bill now includes the 80% target on emissions and a requirement for consistent, mandatory reporting by companies.

Colin stressed how grateful Christian Aid is to the Sevenoaks Christian Aid Committee and all the churches who support Christian Aid in this district for their consistent and generous efforts. The income Christian Aid receives from supporters is derived in part from the doorstep collection, in part from single and regular gifts, with 10% coming from legacies. Colin works with churches and dioceses in drawing to people's attention the option of including charitable legacies in their wills.

Colin reminded the meeting of two large emergency appeals with which Christian Aid had been involved in recent years, the Burma cyclone appeal and the Tsunami appeal, and provided feedback on the current situation in those areas. It is six months since the cyclone in Burma and Christian Aid exceeded its £2M target for the appeal. They were able to respond very quickly to the emergency through local partner organisations and, in addition to the immediate humanitarian response, have been involved in longer term rebuilding of homes and livelihoods and in providing disaster reduction training for the people there. The scale of the devastation caused by the Tsunami in 2004 was immense and, over the subsequent 3 years, Christian Aid's appeal raised £47M. Again, part of this has been spent in long-term rebuilding of communities, particularly marginalised communities whose welfare is overlooked by their own governments. In view of the large sums of money involved, an independent report was commissioned to ensure accountability and to make certain that lessons were learned where necessary. The report was very positive and particularly commended the local partnership approach. The lessons which were highlighted were that Christian Aid should aim to be quick off the mark with advocacy to support those excluded from other sources of help, that disaster risk reduction should be part of the response to any emergency from the very start, and that Christian Aid needs to manage expectations among its partner organisations.

Colin spoke briefly about Ghana, which he is to visit shortly, and particularly mentioned the benefits Ghana has received from debt relief. With regard to the issue of climate change, Colin highlighted the upcoming significant meeting in Copenhagen. He also drew attention to Present Aid, QuizAid and Christian Aid week, with its opportunities for doorstep evangelism.

10. Evangelistic Mission in Sevenoaks

Mark Hewett, Pastor of the Town Church, warmly invited the local churches to consider joining with his Church, Bessels Green Baptist Church, St Nicholas, and the Vine Evangelical Church, to be involved with a district-wide mission in 2009. Under the guidance of Max Sinclair, the leaders of these four churches were planning and financing a mission with four clear aims: 1) to present the gospel to the widest possible number of people and see many come to Christ, 2) to involve as many local churches as possible, on the principle that we can do far more together, 3) to leave a lasting legacy of an attitude of and action for evangelism, and 4) to start a cycle of harvesting and reaping events. A four-week focussed mission was planned for November-December 2009 with a series of evening events (on 13, 20, 28 November and 4 December 2009) including music, drama, dance, interviews with public figures and local Christians, and other events, all facilitated by Nick Cuthbert and his evangelistic team, who equip and train Christians to speak about our faith. Possible venues were the Stag and the Leisure Centre but this was still under discussion. A pilot would be run on 3 October 2009, which would give local Christians an opportunity to come and see what it would be like, in the hope that they would then feel happy to invite their non-Christian friends to the mission events. It was hoped that as many churches and Christians as possible would become involved and prayer was requested for God to be at work in all of this. Mark Hewett introduced Bill Lattimer, who is involved with the planning and who made a plea for teams of people to be involved in praying, organising, marketing and branding the mission and in setting up a website, and asked for volunteers. Mark then invited all ministers and pastors to a meeting at the Riverhead Harvester on Wednesday 10 December 2008, to talk about the plans, to ask questions and, if they wish, to stay for lunch.

11 Proposal to twin Sevenoaks with African Town

John Lane introduced Richard Anstead of the Fairtrade Foundation to the meeting. Richard, who worships at the Vine Baptist Church, had been involved with the campaign for Sevenoaks to become a Fairtrade town. He spoke of the general benefits of fair trade and of the particular benefits in raised awareness and exchange of information that could come from twinning a town in England with a town in Africa, citing Minehead as an example. He recommended the website of the One World Linking Association (UKOWLA). The proposal that CTSD should approach the Fairtrade Steering Group to make a joint approach to the Town Council to twin with a town in Africa was carried unanimously.

12 Aims and purpose of CTSD and need for Chairman

There was a volunteer to take on the role of Chairman of CTSD but, due to other commitments, he could not be present at the meeting. It was suggested that, in order to give him a chance to get to know the Executive and to see what he would be taking on, he should be invited to join the Executive as a co-

HopeFest

HopeFest is, in the words of a local historian, 'the biggest mission in this area for at least 100 years'. Eighteen churches are sponsoring the event, representing all the main denominations. They have contributed £32,000 to pay for the costs of venue hire, publicity etc. A further 19 other churches from CTSD have asked to be kept in touch and have said that they will pray for the mission. The first HopeFest event was on 26 September and the last will be 5th December.

During the past year a huge amount of effort has been put in by many people in organising the events, which will be in full swing by the time of the CTSD Annual Meeting. The ministers of the 18 churches have formed a Steering Group, which has made all the key decisions about the events. The centre-piece is a series of four multi-media evenings on Saturday evenings at the Stag Theatre, hosted by Rev Nick Cuthbert from Birmingham. There are also five other events ranging from a men's breakfast in Shoreham to a quiz night in Bessels Green.

It is our prayer that many local people will come to know God for themselves through these events, and through follow-up to be organised by local churches. Further information can be found at our website: www.hopefest.org.uk.

Bill Lattimer



North West Fellowship of Churches Annual Report 2007-2008

Throughout the year the members of the Fellowship took part in the customary quarterly services and combined August evening services, which in 2009 were held at St Mary, Kippington.

In October 2008, the Autumn Service took place at St Mary, Riverhead and in 2009, will be on 18th October at The Drive (Cornwall Hall).

The Advent Carol Service was held at St Mary, Kippington and was very enjoyable. The combined choir sang with enthusiasm as usual under the leadership of Len Ross, with Paul Jeffery at the organ. The venue for 2009 will be URC Christ Church on 2nd December.

In Lent, the Midweek Meetings with frugal lunch were held in five of the churches of the fellowship. The money raised in 2009, £350, was donated to the nominated charity, 'Hands of Compassion' in Tanzania.

The Silent Witness Walk on Good Friday has become a regular feature and is well supported. It concludes with a short time of prayer and singing at Bligh's Meadow.

On Good Friday evening, the combined choir met again for a well supported service at St Mary, Riverhead.

Our fourth Pilgrimage was to Canterbury Cathedral. It was another big success with 52 pilgrims attending for a guided tour of the Cathedral, an ecumenical service and time for quiet reflection. Next year's venue is already planned and will be The Queen's Chapel, Windsor.

At each meeting, we share news from the member fellowships and encourage one another in prayer. We have recently welcomed Revd. David Kitley as the new vicar of St Mary, Kippington.

Mrs Jennifer Jackson - Secretary

opted member with a view to being elected formally as Chairman at the 2009 AGM, should he still be prepared to serve in that way.

John Lane quoted the aims of CTSD from the Constitution and asked the meeting to consider what the member churches want from CTSD and from its Executive. The Executive usually meets three times a year in addition to the AGM. In answer to a question from the floor, it was explained that the bodies in association operate independently so far as governance is concerned, but that CTSD provides a means of reporting, of sharing good practice, and disseminating information, and facilitates the operation of some of the bodies by providing a forum through which officers can be elected.

Revd. Paul Francis had spoken to Anglican ministers in Sevenoaks and Shoreham Deaneries and the feedback was that member churches were supportive of the overarching aims of CTSD and the bodies in association but that worshipping together tended to take place in smaller clusters.

Revd. Dr. Michael Cooke emphasised the importance of CTSD for smaller village churches.

With regard to the existing ecumenical events in the calendar, the meeting wanted these to continue, but it was felt that a considerable number of lay people in the member churches had no idea that these ecumenical events were taking place, although details were sent by CTSD to all member churches.

13 Election of Officers

(a) to Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District Executive

(i) nominations for Chairman: see item 12 above

(ii) nominations for Secretary: Mrs Lis Lidbetter had served for two

periods of three years which, under the Constitution, would normally be the maximum period. In the absence of other nominations, she would be willing to continue to serve but, in view of increasing family commitments, requested that, should the meeting wish her to continue, she be elected for one further year only. This offer was unanimously accepted. The meeting was unanimous in thanking the Secretary, Mrs Lis Lidbetter, for her wonderful service over the last years and for agreeing to serve one more year. The Treasurer identified the need to seek a new Secretary as soon as possible.

(b) to Christian Aid Committee

The re-election of David Brunning as the 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 Elaine Coupe, Penny Walsh, Rita Bennett, and Simon Dawes as Members were agreed unanimously.

14 Future Ecumenical Activities (and issues from Annual Report):

a) CTSD Events and Publicity Group

- i) The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity always falls on 18-25 January. The theme for 2009 comes from Korea and the first event to mark the Week would be the Taizé Worship at St Lawrence, Seal Chart, at 7pm on Saturday 17 January. The main united service would be on Sunday 18 January at St Luke's, and Valerie would be distributing letters to each church shortly regarding the united choir for that event. Bruce Kent had agreed to speak at the service. There would also be Lunchtime Prayers at St John's Church, Quakers Hall Lane, at 12.30pm on Wednesday 21 January.
- ii) The theme for the Ecumenical Lent House Groups in 2009 was "Faith, Hope and Love" taken from 1 Corinthians 13. The Groups would be following the York Course and Pat Harman requested that this be advertised in church newsletters.
- iii) There would be a musical event on Good Friday evening 10 April at St Mary, Riverhead and the customary North West Fellowship Walk of Witness to Blighs.
- iv) Pat Harman also included a personal plea to encourage all members to keep the Christ in Christmas by purchasing the Royal Mail stamps with Christian images.

b) Sevenoaks Churches Literature Project

For 2009, it was proposed that CTSD support a project in Sierra Leone, where they are recovering from a 10-year civil war. In the southern province, unemployment is above 65% and literacy is very poor. The Feed the Minds project aims to reach out to at least 400 people in the southern province and provide them with opportunities to become literate. The suggested project for 2009 was unanimously agreed.

c) Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust

Caroline Berry, Secretary to the Trustees, reported that SAYT once again has two youth workers and is moving forward. Chris Walker invited any church not involved to speak to him or to Caroline after the meeting.

d) Christian Aid

Details of the appeal for the Congo were on all chairs. Two dates for diaries were Carol Singing at Blighs Court on 20 December, 10am to 12 noon, and a QuizAid evening at Christ Church on 10 January 2009, 7 for 7.15pm. Please support these events.

e) Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service

Maureen King, Director of Counselling, reported that, there had been considerable growth and development in recent years and that 2009 would see them consolidating what had been developed. The new initiative of providing child and family therapy would see growth. The Annual Open Meeting, which is not a business meeting but an opportunity to meet with supporters, would take place at 8pm on 21 May at St Mary Kippington. The speaker would be Brian Thorne and everyone was very welcome. If any church was not familiar

sent to the Treasurer at 81a Bradbourne Park Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LQ. VEC generously donate their premises for free.

Befrienders, our longest running Compassion initiative continues to receive referrals from Social and Health Care Professional and the Team led by Margaret Samaranayake from Vineyard are currently befriending 16 people from the local community.

All these initiatives would value your prayers in addition to the financial contributions that enable them to continue serving the vulnerable, hurting and disadvantaged in our community and further a field.

Financial Summary (30.6.09):

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Balance B/F 1.7.08 | £2015.69 |
| Receipts | £1561.54 |
| Expenditure | £1290.08 |
| Balance C/F 30.6.09 | £2287.15 |

Audited Accounts are available from the Treasurer

Amendment to Constitution:

Paragraphs 6 and 7 refer to the maximum periods for which executive members and officers can serve. The proposal is that all elections continue to occur at the Churches Together AGM, but the maximum period of service be removed.

We trust that the **Compassion Newsletter** is keeping everyone informed and up to date. If you would like to print additional copies for your fellowship, the Newsletter can be emailed in pdf format, on request from Tony@7oaksvineyard.freeserve.co.uk

Tony Cornfield - Chairman (Sevenoaks Vineyard Church)
Miranda Cormack - Secretary (St Mary's Riverhead)
Rosemary Wakefield - Treasurer (Sevenoaks URC)
Elaine Coupe - Executive (Drive Methodist)
Rita Bennett - Executive (St Mary Kippington)
Simon Dawes - Executive (Bessels Green Baptist)



The Sevenoaks Churches Group for Social Concern

A year of significant achievements, as ideas conceived last year have come to fruition and are bearing fruit in people's lives.

Sevenoaks Debt Advice Centre is now a division of Tonbridge Debt Advice Centre (TDAC) and through them is licensed with the FSA and affiliated to Advice UK and Community Money Advice.

Led and co-ordinated by Graham Garner from Bessels Green Baptist Church, a team of volunteers from churches throughout the area are now providing debt advice on Thursday evenings from their base at Vine Evangelical Church (VEC).

Applications for advice are made by phone to 01732 459599, where a voicemail message can be left at any time.

Gifts to support the ongoing costs should be made payable to SDAC and sent c/o Graham Garner, VEC, Hitchin Hatch Lane, Sevenoaks, TN13 3AT as the initiative is no longer under the Group for Social Concern.

Sevenoaks Child Contact Centre is now a fully functioning ministry of SCGSC. The team of 12 volunteers from local churches was trained and ready to serve from early in 2009, but it wasn't until May 2009 that word had spread and referrals began coming through.

Such is the demand for supported visiting for children to see their non-resident parent, that by the summer of 2009 there were 16 children from 9 families using the scheme and a waiting list has now been implemented.

The team led by Sally Stiven from VEC with deputy Brenda Clayton from Vineyard, facilitate Contact on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month between 2.00pm and 4.00pm so that a visiting parent gets to spend quality time with their child(ren).

Gifts to meet their needs for both training and materials should be

with the work of SCCS, they would be delighted to speak to them or to come to their church to explain their work.

f) **Sevenoaks & District Churches Group for Social Concern**

Chairman, Tony Cornfield, drew attention to the Compassion Newsletter and reported that the Befrienders scheme was flourishing. About a dozen people were being trained to work at the Sevenoaks Debt Advice Centre, which was due to open at around the beginning of February. A Child Contact Centre would be available from February on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 2 to 4pm so that children can meet up with a parent they would not otherwise see, due to marriage breakdown.

g) **North West Fellowship**

The Chairman, Revd. Ken Thom, reported that the churches in the North West Fellowship continued to worship and share together. There would be the customary shared services during Lent and a pilgrimage to Canterbury in August 2009.

h) **Seeds – Hope 08**

Matt Young, the Secretary, pointed the meeting to the Hope 08 report in the CTSD Annual Report and explained that the initiative would be carrying on next year as "Hope". Across the district, 1000's of people had heard the gospel this year through Hope 08. If anyone wanted to know more, Matt invited them to have a word with him after the meeting.

John Lane thanked the activity groups and bodies in association for all their ongoing work and commitment.

15 **Any Other Business**

Ailsa Walker, who submits details of church services to the Chronicle each week, thanked all those who provide regular updates and reminded those churches that do not regularly contribute to her column that, if they would like details of their Christmas services to be included, she would need details by 7 December. Ailsa also gave notice of her intention to stand down from this role in 2009. She will be handing over to Janet Dalzel of Sevenoaks URC and will contact the churches when the change is to take place. The CTSD Treasurer proposed a vote of thanks for all Ailsa's work in this role and in support of CTSD over many years and this was enthusiastically carried.

16 **Date of next AGM**

The next AGM would be on the evening of **Thursday 12 November 2009** at a venue to be agreed. Gratitude was expressed to Sevenoaks URC for hosting the AGM and to Chris Walker for his hard work in setting things up for the meeting.

17 **Closing Devotions:** Revd. Ken Thom closed the meeting in prayer.

Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2009

| 2008 | | | 2009 | |
|------------|-----|---|------|-------------|
| £ | £ | | £ | £ |
| 340 | | Subscriptions (see note 1) | | 340 |
| 194 | | Deposit Interest | | 56 |
| <u>534</u> | | | | <u>396</u> |
| | | <u>Deduct:</u> | | |
| | 54 | General Expenses, Postage, Stationery | 125 | |
| | 144 | Churches Together in Kent Subscription | 144 | |
| | 0 | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Expenses | 175 | |
| <u>198</u> | | | | <u>444</u> |
| <u>336</u> | | Surplus (Deficit) for the Year | | <u>(48)</u> |
| ===== | | | | ===== |

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2009

| | | | | |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | GENERAL FUND: | | |
| 1395 | | Balance at 1 October 2008 | 1731 | |
| 336 | | Surplus (Deficit) for the year | (48) | |
| <u>1731</u> | | | | <u>1683</u> |
| | | PUBLICITY FUND | | |
| 1847 | | Balance at 1 October 2008 | 1784 | |
| 350 | | Contributions from Churches | 350 | |
| <u>2197</u> | | | <u>2134</u> | |
| 413 | | Less: Costs incurred | 752 | |
| <u>1784</u> | | | | <u>1382</u> |
| | | CTSD LITERATURE FUND | | |
| 938 | | Balance at 1 October 2008 | 904 | |
| 1879 | | Contributions from Churches | 2165 | |
| <u>2817</u> | | | <u>3069</u> | |
| 1913 | | Less: Paid to Feed the Minds re. 2008 | 1978 | |
| <u>904</u> | | | | <u>1091</u> |
| | | FESTIVAL OF CAROLS FUND | | |
| 396 | | Balance at 1 October 2008 | 396 | |
| 0 | | Less: Deposits paid | 313 | |
| <u>396</u> | | | | <u>83</u> |
| <u>4815</u> | | | | <u>4239</u> |
| ===== | | | | ===== |
| 4815 | | Represented by: Balances at Bank | | 4239 |
| ===== | | | | ===== |

Note:

- Subscriptions in 2009 were as follows: Town Churches £12, Country Churches £8.
 It is now proposed that subscriptions be equalised and all churches charged £10 in 2010.

D. C. Seal - Treasurer

at this level.

In my report last year I mentioned a new and exciting development for SCCS in that we were planning to offer a Child and Family Therapy service. This is now under way and as anticipated, is making a valuable contribution to meeting the needs of many children and their families in our district.

SCCS continues to support independent therapists, pastoral workers and others in their work, through consultation, supervision and a varied training programme. Our regular 'Counselling Skills for Pastoral Care' course ran from November 2008 to June 2009 and our Continuing Professional Development days for qualified practitioners number four each year, and offer a variety of topics including *death and dying, money, dynamics in the therapeutic relationship, and counselling and spiritual direction*.

The Annual Open Meeting in May was very well attended, not least because we were privileged to have as our guest speaker Prof. Brian Thorne – Emeritus Professor of Counselling at the University of East Anglia and a lay Canon of Norwich Cathedral. He gave an inspirational talk on the subject of spiritual discipline in helping relationships.

SCCS has experienced God's grace in the continuing provision for our needs and for the needs of our clients. We are grateful for all the support we receive from the community, not only from churches and individual donors but also from Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council. As we seek to express our Christian faith through the work we do we regard those of you who read this report as our partners. Please pray for our work, support our events and continue to give what you can to the work throughout the coming year. Thank you!

Maureen King - Director of Counselling

opportunity to send postcards to the Prime Minister and write to their MEPs urging decisive action at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December of this year. At the Commissioning Service for Christian Aid Week, Sarah Filbey, Christian Aid's Communications Officer for Africa gave a moving and inspiring talk about her visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo and described how Christian Aid's support is helping families to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of the war.

Thank you

Finally we would like to thank all those who supported Christian Aid during the year, local churches who not only raised a considerable sum for Christian Aid directly, but allowed us to use their premises for Christian Aid events without charge, Chappell's (Funeral Directors) for kindly allowing a display in their window during Christian Aid Week, and Rosemary Cracknell, the churches' correspondent for Sevenoaks Chronicle for regularly publicising Christian Aid events.

John Lane (Chairman)

Elsbeth Cooke (Secretary)

David Brunning (Treasurer)



Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service

2008 - 2009

The staff team at The Bridge now numbers fifteen counsellors (including a Child and Family Therapist) and four administrators. In addition there are two students on placement. Although we said goodbye to one of our counsellors due to his move away from the area earlier in 2009, I am delighted that two new counsellors - Nigel Law and Sandie Wade - have joined the counselling team. We were also very sad to lose one of our administrators, Joyce Brown who died in June following a long illness. She had been a loyal supporter of our work for years. We are aware that in losing Joyce we have also lost a person who interceded daily for our work. We do not underestimate the loss to the service. Losing Joyce meant that we were in real need for additional support in administration and we were enormously relieved when two new administrators Julie Watson and Madeleine Busvine joined Rosie Dalton and Pamela McCurdy to make up the team, early in 2009 – a real answer to our prayers for staff support

Independent Examiner's Report

The report on the funds of Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District for the year ended 30th September 2009 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
16 October 2009

The Events and Publicity Group 2008-9

The Events and Publicity Group exists to facilitate the work of CTSD and, in particular, to provide support in publicising the work of CTSD generally and in the planning, promotion and presentation of specific ecumenical events. The Group currently comprises Miranda Cormack (St Mary Riverhead), Pat Harman (St Thomas), Dianne Jarrett (Salvation Army), Lis Lidbetter (St Nicholas) and Valerie Ruddle (The Drive). Each Group member brings their own experience, expertise and encouragement and I am profoundly grateful for all that they do so quietly and efficiently year on year. We would love to welcome additional members. If you would like to help with organising or publicising an event or you have a particular skill (such as music, art, writing, administration...) or you would like to represent your church, please contact any member of the Group – we would be delighted to hear from you. We are especially eager to find someone who could take on the role of reporting on CTSD events to the Chronicle and other local papers/magazines.

The regular events in the CTSD calendar are the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Ecumenical Lent Groups, the Good Friday music event, Remembrance Sunday and the Festival of Carols.

The theme for the 2009 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, “*Reconcile Your People*”, came from Korea. St Luke’s hosted the main united service, which was very well attended, and we are grateful to them for their warm welcome. The choir comprised 50 singers drawn from 10 local churches and the speaker was Bruce Kent, who gave a memorable and challenging address, urging Christians to work for and to speak up for justice. We are also grateful to St John’s for hosting the weekday lunchtime prayers in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and for welcoming those who attended to lunch as well.

Over 80 people joined the Ecumenical Lent House Groups this year from a good mixture of churches within the district. House Groups were hosted on a selection of mornings and afternoons and on each weekday evening to cater for the availability of the participants. The York Course studies based on 1 Corinthians 13 “Faith, Hope and Love” were well received and provoked good discussion.

One encouraging development has been the youth workers’ regular monthly prayer breakfast. This is attended by 13 or more people who represent about 11 local churches. This coming together has been important in relation to Hopefest and in particular the youth arm kNOw Hope?. We pray that this major outreach throughout the Sevenoaks district might be a time when some fruit is seen from the seed sown patiently over the years.

Sue Baldwin - saytnews@sayt.org.uk

www.sayt.org.uk

Caroline Berry

Secretary to the Trustees: secretary@sayt.org.uk

Sevenoaks and District Christian Aid Committee Report

2008 – 2009

Christian Aid’s activities in the Sevenoaks area have continued to pursue the dual aims of fund-raising for Christian’s Aid’s worldwide development work, and of raising awareness of developmental issues.

Fund Raising

The main fund-raising effort is Christian Aid Week with a house-to-house collection and a collection at Sevenoaks station. The amount raised this year was £24,765.50. This was slightly down on last year’s sum but still a very positive amount considering the current financial situation. Other fund-raising events during the year included Carol Singing in central Sevenoaks just before Christmas (this Saturday morning event was well-supported by shoppers with their families), a very enjoyable Quiz Evening in January and a jewellery stall and toy tombola at Cheshire Homes Open Day at Chevening House in July. We also plan to hold a Jumble Sale in October.

In the year ended 31st March 2009, £32,661.17 was sent to Christian Aid. This amount includes all funds raised during Christian Aid Week 2008. Full accounting details have been submitted separately to Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District.

Raising Awareness

This year’s Frugal Lunch focussed on Climate Change with the showing of a Christian Aid DVD and participants having the

Garrett of Vine Evangelical Church is overseeing the schools work while John Shanley from the Kenwood Trust is leading the unattached work. The post is being advertised and we hope to have it filled by the New Year but in the meantime are very grateful to all those who are keeping the wheels turning.

Earlier in the year there were a number of exciting events. A quiz evening in Otford Village Memorial Hall on March 7th brought together 18 teams of 8 members each from all across the Sevenoaks area. The teams were treated to an excellent Ploughman's meal, arranged by Vanessa Nicholls who was ably supported by a group of ladies from St Botolph Church in Chevening. Thanks to various supporters, not least Sevenoaks Town Council whose funding enabled us to hire the Memorial Hall, our expenses on putting on the evening were significantly reduced and enabled SAYT to raise nearly £1500. The Sevenoaks Community Hall is booked for a similar evening on March 6th 2010. Put the date in your diary NOW.

During the Sevenoaks Festival SAYT booked the STAG and put on a splendid concert featuring Emma Pears, a member of the Town Church and gifted singer and song writer, Her singing entranced both those who already knew her and those who did not. She was ably supported by the singing group Three for a Girl and the young band Momofaction. The STAG was practically full and it was an excellent evening.

Both Emma and Three for a Girl are participating in the STAG Hopefest events this autumn

With SAYT now entering its 8th year, SAYT's trustees, management team and volunteers held the next in its series of AwayDays to review progress, plan strategy and pray for wisdom for future planning. Maureen Lewis kindly hosted the day at her beautiful home in Ivy Hatch and Peter Ashwell came to act as facilitator. The Trustees are still digesting his report and considering how best the SAYT should move forward into its next seven years. The Annual Open Meeting was held on 10th June at Bessels Green Baptist Church. There were thought provoking presentations from the staff on the theme of the gifts of the Spirit so it was a pity that numbers attending were low.

St Mary, Riverhead, welcomed CTSD to an enjoyable Good Friday Music Service with an ecumenical choir of 44 singers from 12 churches.

In recent years, Dianne Jarrett has represented CTSD in laying a poppy cross at the Vine War Memorial during the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service. We are grateful to Mark Hewett of the Town Church for agreeing to lead the prayers at the Remembrance Sunday Service in 2009.

The Festival of Carols has been booked at the Stag for 8pm on 2nd December 2009 with Bromley Band of the Salvation Army, soloist Anthony Harris and the Lady Boswell's School choir. This is the first Festival of Carols at the Stag since 2005 and is intended to bring those who would not normally go to church to hear something of the Christmas message of good news.

The usual Christmas greeting from the churches appeared in the Chronicle in 2008. If anyone would like to design a new greeting for 2009 and beyond, please get in touch.

We are grateful to Francis Chappell and Sons for kindly continuing to allow us to provide window displays highlighting the Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Do keep an eye out for these displays as you pass the premises on London Road.

Lis Lidbetter



Ecumenical Lent House Groups 2009

A groundwork of sharing and caring among the churches is part of a good base for the Hopefest project. We hope the Lent Groups are contributing to a fellowship of prayerful sharing. The thinking behind the Lent Groups is to live out St. Paul's plea "Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together" (see Eph, 4. 1-6).

This year's theme "These three - Faith Hope and Love" (1 Cor 13.13) turned out to be a fortuitous choice in view of Hopefest. About 80 people drawn from all the local Churches looked at,

discussed and prayed about “Faith, Hope and Love” this Lent. Once again numbers allowed us to arrange groups most mornings and afternoons and each weekday evening. Sincere thanks go to participants who gave us flexibility in the composition of groups to get a good denominational mix, and to the kind and generous hosts who do such a fine job in keeping the groups going.

One or two dropped out because of illness but we heard anecdotal evidence of a group expanding as neighbours on the doorstep were invited in. Jesus’ words ‘Come and See’ spring to mind. Apparently it was a great success. Another group which meets regularly and expands in Lent to include “our” participants is to remain enlarged – another sign of hope. To use Tariq Ali’s words from this year’s booklet, “Hope is constantly reborn in different circumstances”.

We, the coordinators, believe quite passionately, really, that each little ecumenical group should be building harmony and understanding and that the more we share and explore our spiritual heritage and love of God, the better we and the world will be. We know from reports and personal experience that there can be ups and downs, but again this year reports are mainly positive and supportive of this ecumenical enterprise.

We finish with a typical report received from one of the groups (participants’ names changed):

“It has been a good group of folk. I had to miss one of the sessions because Bill was ill and several others have missed one or two sessions as well. In fact, I think Ann Smith was the only lady who made it to all of them. Tina never materialized.

There were some good discussions and some real sharing. As always, I think some of the group were surprised at how much we all had in common. The topic worked well for our group and the CD provoked some interesting debate – particularly the contributions from Anne Atkins.”

The course CD is available to borrow. We plan to organize groups next year and hope that you and your Churches will support and encourage new participants to join in.

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

CTSD Literature Project

For 2008 it was decided to support Feed the Minds, in conjunction with Our Lady of Mercy Community, in their efforts towards the empowerment of disadvantaged women and young people in the Kassena District of Ghana through vocational training. I am able to report that, thanks to the generosity of a number of member churches as well as some individuals, we reached a total figure of £2,400.45 which, in a year that had a number of appeals following disasters, was very creditable. Feed the Minds have also asked me through this report to thank all those who have so kindly produced such a very good result.

For 2009 we chose to again work with Feed the Minds in their efforts to provide literacy and employment opportunities in Bo Town, Sierra Leone. This area is still suffering from the effects of a civil war which lasted over a decade, schools and hospitals which were destroyed or abandoned, and a population struggling to survive despite rich natural resources. Unemployment is in the region of 65%.

I am pleased to report that to date we have received £961.45 in total, although on a forward projection it would appear that we are likely to fall well short of last year’s total. I appreciate that this is a very difficult time financially for many people and churches and that there are constantly increasing requests and appeals, but I truly hope and pray that this project will strike a chord with all who read the report. Meanwhile may I record the thanks of Feed the Minds and the people of Bo Town, as well as my own, to those who have been able to give so generously thus far.

***John Lane - Project Co-ordinator
September 2009***

SAYT - Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust 2009

SAYT is currently in an unusually quiet phase as Judith left at the end of July to take up a post in Cambridge. She had been with us for seven years and had done so much in building up the work, she will be sorely missed. We are sad to report that Phil Taylor (50/50 between SAYT and Kemsing parish) is also on the move, having relinquished his SAYT responsibilities in September. We wish him well in the next stage of his career. Fortunately it has been possible to make arrangements to keep the work going during this interim period. Dave