

CGSC Executive Committee:

Chairman	Tony Cornfield
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Or email Tony@7oaksvineyard.
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The Secretary on 01732 457230
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Churches Group for Social Concern -

Aims:

To encourage the people of the churches in the application of their faith to everyday life in the community.

To draw the attention of member churches to current local needs and work in partnership with other agencies in an attempt to meet them.

To assist in thinking about ethical and moral issues, by initiating appropriate study projects and conferences.

When necessary it will arrange fundraising events.

Compassion

The Sevenoaks Churches

Issue 3, July 2004

Future plans and events

Autumn Open Meeting -

8.00 pm on Tuesday 12th October,
at The Vine Evangelical Church

"Building & Supporting Relationships within Families"

Guest Speakers:

Peter Pickett from Spring House Family Support Centre (for families with a pre-school child)

Niall Willis from The Bridge Trust (Action for single homeless people)

Churches Together AGM -

7.30 for 8.00 pm Thursday 11th November,
at St Johns Hill URC

- Interactive presentation by **Acorn Christian Listeners**
- Update on the proposed Drop-in Centre, for which a feasibility study is currently underway, and much interest is being expressed, from Chris Walker

Worship & Fellowship together.

Future Opportunities . . .

What a fantastic day we had on 31st May - our first Community Action Day saw 120 people from 12 churches participate in 19 projects around the area. (Details inside)

Thank You to each and every one who helped.

What are we going to do next?

Firstly we believe it would be good to have another Action Day at the same time next year, so please put Monday 30th May 2005 in your diary.

So what else can we get involved in?

Two ideas are currently under investigation:

- Debt** - Each year thousands of people from all segments of society experience problems with debt. Expertise from Christian sources exists to help with advice and education. Should we as Christians get involved locally?
- Befriending** - Hundreds of people need support that may extend beyond the health and social services net. Could we as local Christians set up a service for appropriate referrals?

If either of these sound like just the sort of thing that you would like to get involved with, please call Tony on

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faithworks

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We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Eph 2 v 10



Community Action Day 31/5/04

The Sevenoaks Chronicle reported, "Christians unite to help community" and "church-goers use bank holiday to express faith in modern day terms".

Wasn't it fantastic to be part of such a venture, involving 120 people from 12 different churches, clearing rubbish, painting & varnishing, and transforming gardens - both individual and communal - that needed willing pairs of hands. And then, late afternoon 60 or more people gathered for a free "thank you" barbecue, the cost of which has since been met by gifts and donations.

Rain had been forecast, but God gave us a glorious day without even a shower.



Wasn't it great to be able to demonstrate that our faith has legitimate and practical expression outside our four walls, in kindness, generosity and compassion within our communities.



Organisations and individuals who had been helped, expressed their gratitude:

- I am writing to thank all your volunteers for the splendid work you did at . . .
- I would like to thank your team very much for the excellent . . .
- I write to thank your hard working group of people for so generously donating their Bank holiday to . . .
- Generosity seems to come so naturally to some people - thank you . . .

Your sacrifice of 2, 3 or 4 hours on that day undoubtedly spoke louder than words to some of the people who were helped. And wasn't it fun too!

St. Francis of Assisi said:

"Preach the gospel on all occasions and if necessary use words"

Elements of a CAD (Community Action Day)

Earth, air, fire and water – the ancients considered the universe to be made up of these four elements. Be that as it may, the four featured largely on bank holiday Monday, 31 May, as 120 people from twelve churches joined hands in an elementary exercise to show God's love to the community.

Earth: many of the projects involved getting our hands dirty. Some of us painted fences (and each other, by the look of it), others collected litter and still others got stuck into some serious garden clearing.

Air: there was no need to brave the elements, as Tony (aka God) had arranged some fabulous weather for the day. There wasn't a cloud in the sky, until ...

Fire: the gardeners obtained the neighbours' permission to start a bonfire, which made short work of the cleared undergrowth, but temporarily caused an element of unrest in the rest of the estate. The perpetrators then withdrew to fire up the barbecue at the Crampton's Road Community Centre.

Water (hot) was available for tea and coffee to wash down the burgers and sausages. Some of the less ancient elements got into some hot water of their own when they started a fight featuring a jug of (cold) water, until one of the youth leaders broke it up (literally) ... what a CAD!

By Chris Stiven (VEC)

Building & Supporting Relationships within Families

The Autumn Open Meeting (Oct 12th) raises one of the most vital issues in society today - family relationships - and asks representatives of two leading local charities, "How can we as Christians or churches help"

Our guest speakers:

Peter Pickett from Spring House Family Support Centre, will talk from the perspective of an organisation involved with supporting families with a pre-school child.

Niall Willis of The Bridge Trust, will share insights gained through their provision of housing for single homeless people, with special reference to teenagers becoming homeless through family conflict.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3 v 12 & 14