

Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 January 2011 at 10.30am
Meeting Room St Andrew's Church Kimbolton Road Bedford

Present

Revd Peter C Protheroe	Acting Chair (Baptist Ecumenical Officer)
Revd Andrew Gale	CEDO
Jocelyn Harper	Secretary
Peter Ormerod	Treasurer
Lynn Ashman	Miracle Church of God
John Bradley	Field Officer Churches Together in England
Revd Keith Brown	Ecumenical Officer Bedfordshire URC Thames North Synod
Revd Dr Colin Davey	Consultant
Crystal Dickinson	Religious Society of Friends
Lieut. Col Bob Halliday	Salvation Army
Revd Mgr Sean Healy	Roman Catholic
Revd Andrew Hollins	Methodist Ecumenical Officer Beds and Herts
Alan Ledwick	All Bedford Churches
Revd Angus McCormick	Congregational Federation
Revd Charles Royden	Church of England

1 Opening Worship Led by Revd Andrew Gale

2 Welcome Revd Peter Protheroe (Acting Chair) welcomed all serving on the newly appointed Committee and thanked John Bradley for attending today. Revd Colin Davey was thanked for all his work throughout his ten years of service to the Committee. He had given a vital contribution and we look forward to his guidance at this meeting.

Co-opted members (CT Groups/LEPs)

Six names had been received:

Jeff Bulled Enid Clifton Alan Dansey Michael Lawton Alan Ledwick Alan Smith
Enid Clifton has indicated that she is no longer able to serve on the Committee.

All others were accepted and will be notified of the decision. **Action: JAH**

Apologies for absence Michael Lawton

3 Matters Arising None

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2010

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

5 Notice of Any Other Business

- 1 Chaplaincy at Bedford Hospital Andrew Hollins
- 2 Website Andrew Gale

6 Update on Wixams

Revd Tim Jackson was appointed in October and is moving into Wixams today. The Service to Commission and Welcome Tim is on Sunday 6 February at 4.00pm. It is hoped that this will be at Lakeview School, Wixams; this will be confirmed. Although Tim is a URC minister BEC will be his employer; Keith Brown explained the reason for this, related to the number of ministers in the Synod. The details will be in the handbooks of all the denominations involved. We are all very grateful to our Treasurer, Peter Ormerod who has taken on the responsibility of handling all finances related to this employment. All were asked to pray for Tim and his wife, Bev, as they begin this work. John Bradley reminded us of the good way in which this is working out, with the Minister in place while the community is still being housed and developed. He asked for a press release (with photo) to be sent to him. Peter Protheroe will contact Bishop Richard regarding the press release. **Action: PCP/JAH**

The members of KHEG were thanked for all the work carried out since 1998; this is recorded and will be passed to the Group at the next meeting in February.

Action: JAH

7 Finance Peter Ormerod

Peter told the meeting that he felt privileged to be involved with the work at Wixams and money is already being received from the donors. £15,000 has been received from the St Albans Diocese. A separate account is being set up for all finances relating to Wixams and all donors will receive details of the account. It was noted that as the fellowship at Wixams is formed and develops, there could be money contributing towards costs.

A balance of over £10,000 is held in BEC's current account.

Peter was thanked for all his work with the accounts.

8 CEDO Report

Andrew thanked the Committee for allowing him to attend the Course for newly appointed CEDOs, to be held in March this year.

He gave details of his work, discussions with church leaders, building relationships, spending time at meetings and generally viewing what churches are doing.

He hoped that this is what is required of him.

Andrew was thanked for his work and received confirmation that the way in which he is carrying out this work is the right way.

He was asked how his two different jobs are working out; he is happy that the two roles are working out well. He has taken a week's holiday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, enabling him to attend meetings.

A copy of Andrew's Report is attached with these Minutes.

Some discussion followed, concerning the work in Luton and John Bradley gave examples of Groups that have 'come together' after what first appeared to be difficult. Andrew is hoping to become involved in the 'More than Gold' project for 2012 with a 'Get Together in Mission' focus.

It was noted that in Bedford both 'Groups' of churches work together for the Good Friday Act of Witness in the town.

Some enquired about the way in which the 'In the Picture' event is run (see Report); Andrew explained that parents are informed of the procedure when allowing their children to be photographed and that all photos will be removed from the Website at the end of January. Andrew Hollins explained how this is done in Sandy; Andrew Gale will look into this for any future event.

9 CT/LEP – Action required

- a) Sandy and Beeston CT We have received no reply following the information given to them and believe this matter is now completed. We were saddened to learn that the Moderator of Churches Together in Sandy had died this week.
- b) Marston Moretaine Andrew gave a brief outline of the work being done at Marston and of the problems encountered, as he sees them. Each of the three churches, Bedford Road Methodist, St Mary's Parish Church and the Vale Community Church have a strong sense of God's calling but appear to find it difficult to share together. Andrew has already met with the leaders and another meeting will be held in February.
- c) Biggleswade CT This will be carried forward to the Agenda at the April meeting; the Contact for this Group is Alan Dansey.
Other Groups were added to the list:
- d) Oakley (Local Covenant Methodist/Anglican) Colin Davey enquired about the work at Oakley; Andrew will contact the leaders to arrange a meeting. Jocelyn will give him the details needed.
- e) Thurleigh LEP St Peter's Anglican and Thurleigh Baptist - The Covenant was agreed three years ago. Both churches have passed a Resolution to form an LEP with BEC the Sponsoring Body. A Draft Constitution is currently being formed.

10 Annual Forum 25 May 2011

Canon Denis McSweeney has already offered to accommodate us at The Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flitwick and Bishop Richard will be our Speaker. All agreed that the new arrangements last year proved to be very successful and would wish to continue with the same arrangements this year. We will ask Michael Lawton if he can help to organise this. **Action: JAH**

11 Election of Chairman

Bishop Richard has agreed to remain in post until 5 April 2011. Mgr Sean Healy has agreed to be Chairman from 6 April 2011. Proposed by Peter Protheroe
Seconded by Charles Royden
This was carried in favour - Nem Con; Sean Healy will Chair the meeting on 6 April.

12 Any Other Business

Hospital Chaplaincy

Andrew Hollins spoke of the current situation regarding Chaplaincy at Bedford Hospital, particularly in view of the move from the area of the current Methodist representative. Previously, there had been a full time Anglican chaplain with others supporting on a part time basis. It was agreed that the numbers at the hospital qualify for the appointment of a full time chaplain. It was noted that Revd Debbie Hodge (Churches Together) could advise on this but Andrew had already contacted her. The Worship Teams from local churches continue to organise and run the services at 9.30am on Sunday mornings but these have not been relayed to wards for over six years, since equipment was changed. It was noted that if a chaplain were to be appointed, that person could enlist the help of volunteers to ensure adequate provision. Peter Protheroe agreed to contact Bishop Richard regarding the situation of the Anglican chaplaincy. **Action: PCP**

Website

Andrew Gale informed the meeting of the new provision on the Churches Together Website; a new site has been made available under Churches Together in Britain and Ireland for CT Groups to use free web space for information, such as newsletters.

Andrew will adapt our next Together newsletter for inclusion.

The January newsletter will be produced within the next two weeks in order to provide up to date information from this meeting.

Action: AG/JAH

13	Dates of Next Meetings	The Meeting Room	St Andrew's Church
		Kimbolton Road	Bedford
10.30am	Wednesday	6 April	2011
10.30am	Wednesday	26 October	2011 **

**** Please note** The October meeting has been changed from 19th to **26th**

Date of Annual Forum 2011 Wednesday 25 May 2011

The Meeting closed at 12.05 pm

Signed Date