

Report of the Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee 2010

The Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee (BEC) is the executive arm of the Churches Together in Bedfordshire, which meets formally only once a year at its Forum. The Forum and its constituent denominations are responsible for appointing the members of BEC, which has met three times in 2010 in January, April and October at St Andrew's Church, Bedford. BEC coordinates the work of Churches Together across the county.

We were delighted to welcome the Reverend Andrew Gale as the new County Ecumenical Development Officer when he took up his post on 1st October 2010. It is good that BEC once again has the support of a CEDO and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and energy which he brings to this post.

We were equally delighted to appoint the Reverend Tim Jackson as Ecumenical Church Development Minister for Wixams in October 2010 (he started work in February 2011). This appointment is the result of many years of hard work by the Kempston Hardwick Ecumenical Group with the cooperation of the Church Leaders of the partnership denominations.

The Review of the structures of BEC was completed during 2010. The meeting in October 2010 was the last one of the existing committee, with a new committee being formed for the first meeting of January 2011. I am very grateful to all members of the committee, both new and old, for all the work and commitment that they put into BEC and I wish the committee well for 2011 and beyond. I would also like to thank and welcome the Reverend Monsignor Sean Healy who has now taken over the role of Chairman of BEC; it is good to know that BEC will continue to flourish under his leadership.

The 2010 Forum was held in May and the speaker was the Reverend Dr Andrew Prasad, Moderator of Thames North Synod of the URC, who spoke about 'An international perspective on the ecumenical scene, comparing the situations in India and Britain.'

Last, but not least, I would like to place on record my gratitude for the work done by our Secretary, Jocelyn Harper, and our Treasurer, Peter Ormerod. While continuing to keep the BEC accounts in good order, Peter also had the extra task in 2010 of setting up a payroll system for Andrew Gale and Tim Jackson. We are grateful to him for accepting this challenge and for his work in finding a payroll company for the future.

I'm of the firm opinion that BEC would not function as smoothly as it does without the deft hand of Jocelyn at the tiller – her enthusiasm and ability to keep the committee work of BEC is very much appreciated by all and I am especially grateful to her for her gentle reminders when deadlines approach. We owe both Peter and Jocelyn a huge debt of gratitude.

May 2011

+Richard
Bishop of Bedford