

**Minutes of the Forum held on Wednesday 25 May 2011 at
The Sacred Heart Catholic Church Flitwick
at 7.30pm**

Welcome The Revd Monsignor Sean Healy (Chairman) welcomed all present.

Father Sean thanked Father Denis McSweeney for **providing** accommodation for the meeting.

He also thanked all who had prepared the buffet meal for us.

Opening Worship Canon Denis McSweeney led the Worship

Address The Right Revd Richard Inwood Bishop of Bedford
Reflections from an ecumenical perspective on 35 years of ministry

Bishop Richard took us back to his early days including his childhood in the 1950's, and his experiences through Christian Union at University, all leading to his Christian commitment, development and subsequent calling into the Ministry. We learned of his first appointment to a Curacy, followed by Parishes in Bath, Yeovil, Rastrick and to his present appointment in Bedford.

He spoke of the new development at Wixams, the work carried out by members of KHEG and of the appointment of Tim Jackson to be the Ecumenical Christian Development Minister. BEC is still committed to supporting Tim and his wife, Bev, and to see this develop into a living church.

He spoke of the involvement of the Roman Catholics at every level of this work, particularly of the way in which Father Denis McSweeney and Msgr Sean Healy have been and continue to be involved.

He concluded with three things that stand out for him from his experience over the years:

- 1) Ecumenical work depends so much on relationships, not just between church leaders, though that is important, but between church members too. We need to continue to work on this 'chemistry'.
- 2) We all need to stand loose to our very different structures in order to make things happen. We need to find ways round the structures rather than seeing them as an insurmountable rock.
- 3) We need to continue to press the national structures of ecumenism to simplify the labyrinthine documentation that puts us all off doing anything formal together. Life is far too short and Christian witness too important to get tied up in so much red tape.

Business Meeting 52 present

1 Apologies

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| Chris Barnes | Alan Ledwick |
| Revd Anne Brown | Revd Angus McCormick |
| Revd Keith Brown | Revd Stephen Purvis |
| Revd Julie Bradshaw | Elaine Sullivan |
| Colin Davey | John Tusting |
| Adrienne Gordon | |

2 Approval of Minutes of Forum held 19 May 2010

The Minutes had been circulated and copies were available at the meeting. One correction was made: In his Address, the Revd Dr Andrew Prasad had spoken of his experience in the Church of **North India**, not South India. After this correction had been made the Minutes were agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters Arising None

4 Chairman's Report Bishop Richard

Copies had been distributed earlier. Bishop Richard commented on the two recent highlights, the appointment of the Revd Andrew Gale to the post of CEDO and the Revd Tim Jackson to be Minister at Wixams.

5 CEDO Report Revd Andrew Gale

Copies had been distributed earlier. Andrew spoke of his enjoyment in this post. He is able to help CT Groups by sharing ideas from other Groups. He is massively encouraged by most of what he has found in Bedfordshire and looks forward to building on these foundations in his future work.

6 Finance

(1) Receiving Annual Accounts for 2010

These had been signed by Mrs Gill Hillier, Independent Examiner
Proposed: Alan Smith Seconded: Jeff Bulled Adopted and agreed by all present.

(2a) Receiving Draft Budget for 2012

The Treasurer thanked all who had paid so promptly.
The shortfall of £798 will be covered by funds from the 2009/2010 accounts.
Proposed: Bishop Richard Seconded: Revd Charles Royden Agreed by all present.

(2b) Receiving Draft Budget for 2012 (Wixams)

We may need to seek further funding to cover the expected shortfall of £1,755.
Proposed: Revd Charles Royden Seconded: Bob Halliday Agreed by all present.

(3) Subscriptions from CT Groups and LEPs 2012

It was proposed that Contributions from Denominations should remain at £1250 and Subscriptions from CT Groups and LEPs should remain at £20 per church in each Group. This was agreed with the understanding that smaller churches in some Groups might pay less.

(4) Appointments:

Honorary Treasurer All agreed that Peter Ormerod should continue to be Treasurer. He agreed that he would be happy to stand again.

Honorary Independent Examiner Mrs Gill Hillier has agreed to continue to be our Independent Examiner.

Both Peter Ormerod and Gill Hillier were thanked for their work.

7 Appointment of Chair Monsignor Sean Healy took over as Chair in November 2010, following the October BEC meeting.

8 Appointment to BEC

It was noted that there is a vacancy for one person to join the Committee. Meetings are held in January, April and October each year, usually in the morning. Most meetings have been held in Bedford, the October 2011 meeting is to be held in Luton, venue to be notified.

9 Any Other Business Northampton Diocese Ecumenical Commission

Ian Gordon gave information concerning the forthcoming visit of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor to Milton Keynes on 18 June 2011. Admission is by ticket only; those interested were asked to see Ian as soon as possible.

10 Date of the Forum 2012

Wednesday 23 May 2012 7.30pm at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Flitwick

Peter Ormerod and Jocelyn Harper were thanked for all their work for BEC.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

JAH/July 2011