Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2010 at 10.30am
Meeting Room St Andrew's Church Kimbolton Road Bedford

Present

Bishop Richard	Chair
Revd Andrew Gale	CEDO
Jocelyn Harper	Secretary
Revd Keith Brown	
Enid Clifton	
Revd Dr Colin Davey	
Crystal Dickinson	
Lieut. Col Bob Halliday	
Revd Mgr Sean Healy	
Revd Andrew Hollins	
Revd Cassandra Howes	
Alan Ledwick	
Revd Angus McCormick	
Revd Peter Protheroe	
Alan Smith	

1 Opening Worship The Commissioning Service for the Revd Andrew Gale was held at 9.45am.

2 Welcome Bishop Richard welcomed all to the meeting.
A special welcome was given to:
Revd Andrew Gale (CEDO)
Lieut. Col Bob Halliday (Salvation Army)
Revd Andrew Hollins (Methodist Ecumenical Officer Beds & Herts)
Revd Cass Howes (Chaplain to Bedfordshire University)

Apologies
Brian Hillier
Michael Lawton
Revd Andrew Orton
Peter Ormerod

3 Chaplaincy at Bedfordshire University Revd Cassandra Howes

Cass gave the meeting details of the way in which all students are valued and helped in a variety of ways, although the role of the Chaplain is to provide 'spiritual and pastoral care'. This term she has been helping the International students who have needed assistance in finding accommodation, obtaining National Insurance details and generally, providing pastoral care.
The Chaplaincy has been given new space this term with a portakabin providing a place for students to relax in a safe, congenial place. 'SeedBeds' is open to all and is 'a place in which to grow and change'. The Chaplain is there for students of all faiths and of none.
She is involved in planning a 'Christmas event' which will include a mix of secular and Christian items. Future challenges include creating continued dialogue and ensuring there is provision of multi-cultural space.

4 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21 April 2010
The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
We were informed that the Revd Andrew Orton has reduced his activities to a minimum and will be moving to another post in August 2011.

5 Notice of Any Other Business None

6 Revd Andrew Gale CEDO
Andrew commenced his work on 1 October but had done some research in September and had attended some meetings relating to the role. He already had files from the previous CEDO, Ruth Bottoms.
Andrew informed the meeting of his plans to focus on the work in the Bedford area during his first year, to avoid spreading himself too thinly, but will attend other meetings as and when requested.
Andrew is excited by the project in Wixams and hopes to work closely with the Revd Tim Jackson who has been appointed as Minister at Wixams.
Andrew has already been invited to become involved in the proposed LEP at Thurleigh and will attend the planning meeting on 29 October.
He has already received invitations to attend other Churches Together groups and is keen to learn more of the work involved.
Andrew has been booked to preach at Odell on 23 January 2011 at the United Service for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
He is keen to build relationships with other groups committed to inter-church mission activities and has already attended prayer and planning meetings with Hope Bedfordshire and Bedford Street Angels. Andrew has been invited to visit the Langley House Trust to see their work with ex-offenders.
We were given details of future Courses at Loyola Hall, Prescot – Andrew is keen to attend and all agreed that he should.

1st to 3rd March 2011	New Ecumenical Officers
17th to 19th May 2011	Annual Consultation for County and National Ecumenical Officers.

Andrew is available to preach at services on Sunday mornings.

7 Finance Peter Ormerod
Peter had prepared details for the meeting as he had a hospital appointment. He hoped to attend the meeting as soon as he was able.

Expenditure to date	£1533. 30
Balance at Bank (Current Account)	£11,668. 68

We therefore have ample funds to meet foreseeable calls on our finances, leaving a healthy balance to carry forward into 2011.

8 Consultation Document (Discussed with Item 10)

9 CT/LEP – Action required
a) Review Goldington CT Colin Davey is Chair of this Group and has given advice as requested.
b) Sandy and Beeston CT Jocelyn had contacted the Group and had given details of the Beds and Herts Churches' Media Trust. We have not had a reply.
c) Marston Moretaine and Farley Hill Luton – Links
Farley Hill, Luton - Alan Smith will be the link person.
Marston Moretaine - Andrew will contact this Group. **Action: AG**

d) Wixams The Revd Tim Jackson has been appointed and will commence on 1 February 2011. Tim will be employed by the URC for this role - Hugh Graham (URC) is dealing with the payroll. The house has been provided by the URC who will also provide carpets, turf and electricity points to the garage.
CT in South Beds will invite Tim Jackson to join their Group.
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; BEC will be the Sponsoring Body. Andrew Gale is helping with the drafting of the Constitution.
f) Biggleswade CT Jocelyn had replied to the Revd Martin Dawes suggesting that the new CEDO (when appointed) would be asked to contact the Group. Andrew Hollins offered to give Andrew (CEDO) more details. **Action: AG/AH**

10 Plans for the Future
This is the final meeting of the existing Committee. All now cease to be members of BEC and have to be nominated by someone before the next meeting on Wednesday 19 January 2011 which will be with the new Committee, following the statement in the revised Constitution. The Committee will be made up of ten members plus six others.
Bishop Richard will write to each of the Church Leaders asking them for names, either to agree to the person already representing their denomination, or, suggesting another name.
Bishop Richard will also write to all CT and LEP contacts asking for nominations.
Members of the newly formed Committee will invite a further six members to join them.
Peter Protheroe was asked, and agreed, to Chair the meeting in January; the new Chair will be elected at that meeting
Alan Smith reported that Luton CT have agreed his position.
Bishop Richard is unable to be at the meeting on 19 January but can be contacted by email or telephone for advice.
Alan Ledwick will be here for the Week of Prayer Service at St Andrews Church on 19 January.

11 Any Other Business
Bishop Richard was thanked for all his work as Chair over the past four years. He was also invited to be the Speaker at the Forum on 25 May 2011. He agreed to do this and will consult with Andrew on the theme.

12 Dates of Next Meetings The Meeting Room St Andrew's Church
Kimbolton Road Bedford

10.30am	Wednesday	19 January 2011 **
10.30am	Wednesday	6 April 2011
10.30am	Wednesday	19 October 2011

****** As this falls in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Alan Ledwick has arranged for the WoP Service to begin at 12.30pm at St Andrews Church.

Date of Annual Forum 2011 Wednesday 25 May 2011

The Meeting closed at 12.05pm

Signed ……. Date ……..