

Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 12 October 2016

Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic Church 52 Castle Street, Luton LU1 3AG

Present

Revd Keith Brown	URC
Jeff Bulled	Lidlington LEP
Alan Dansey	Biggleswade
Revd Andrew Gale	Luton CT
Peter Hammond	Treasurer
Jocelyn Harper	Secretary
Revd Andrew Hollins	Methodist Church
Anita Nancollas	CEDO
Revd Peter C Protheroe	Baptist Ecumenical Officer
Alan Smith	Luton CT

- 1 Opening Worship** Reading: 1 Timothy chapter 3 Alan Dansey
Prayers: Revd Andrew Hollins
- 2 Apologies** Mgr Sean Healy Revd Angus McCormick Revd Stephen Toze
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2016**
The Minutes were agreed and were signed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising

Expression of Thanks

Fr Sean Healy was thanked, in his absence, for serving as Chair; he has undertaken this role for longer than the usual length of time. Andrew will send a gift (book token) to express our gratitude.

Jocelyn was thanked for acting as Secretary to BEC; this will be her last meeting.

BEECC Update on Review BEECC meet this Friday 14 October; discussions are taking place which could lead to a change in the formation of the Committee, with a Central Management Group responsible for both Bedford and Luton Chaplaincies.

Stewartby United Church No update.

Feedback from 2016 Forum All agreed that the Business part of the meeting went well and the address from the speaker, Revd David Cornick was very well received. There had been a problem with booking the venue as this should have been done much earlier; plans were then made for the 2017 Forum.

Date Tuesday 9 May 2017 6.30pm Refreshments

Venue Stewartby United Church Jocelyn will contact Elaine Sullivan. (Venue still to be arranged @ 3rd March 2017)

Anita will help to arrange other details, speaker, publicity; it is hoped that the Gospel Pentecostal Church in Luton will provide an exhibition as planned for this year. Woburn Churches Together Group has also offered to put up a display.

Anita will contact Bishop Angelos to ask if he will be our speaker; if he is unable to attend, she will ask Jenny Bond. We would leave the choice of subject to the speaker.

5 Notification of Any Other Business

Appointment of Secretary to BEC

Andrew informed the meeting that Stephanie Field, his PA, has shown an interest in this post. We need to give her details of the duties involved and the honorarium; We discussed the possibility of advertising for a Secretary, but, given the nature of the post, all agreed that we invite Stephanie to be the Secretary.

6 CEDO (Anita Nancollas)

Anita gave a detailed report of her work; a copy will be forwarded to Committee members. Anita has worked with Cass Howes' Assistant to compile an updated Excel sheet listing all CT Groups and LEPs. Administration costs are £220. Anita was thanked for all her work.

7 Finance (Peter Hammond)

Copies of the Accounts to 30 September 2016 were distributed.

It was noted that some CT Groups were not listed and some other details were omitted.

Anita agreed to forward her updated lists to Peter.

BEC's Charity Number must be shown on all accounts and on all correspondence.

The registered office is 32 St John's Street, Bedford MK40 0DH. The Treasurer's home address can be used for correspondence.

We were informed that CTE have taken on the responsibility for the URC pension for Revd Tim Jackson.

Peter informed the meeting that he will retire from the role of Treasurer at the AGM in May 2017. Peter was thanked for all the work carried out as Treasurer.

Letter for circulation to Churches Together Groups and LEPs

The letter has been finalised and will be circulated in advance of this meeting.

Financial contributions set out in the letter will take effect from 1 January 2017.

The letter will be put onto our website.

8 Wixams Services continue each week although numbers are low (7/8).

Jane Mills has taken on the responsibility for the Methodist church and Andrew Gale provides speakers for 3 Sundays each month. Jeff Bulled had offered to assist but has not yet been asked. Stephen Toze provides pastoral help when needed.

The most successful activity is the Messy Church with 60/70 attending each month.

The mid week Play Group is also felt to be of great value to those who attend.

It was agreed that it will soon be time for those at the church (Wixams) to become self sufficient as there is no more funding available.

Wixams has not been the success we had hoped for but we agreed to learn from this experience, to help others to make wise choices and decisions in similar situations.

9 Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Thurleigh United Church – Single Congregation LEP CTE's model Constitution has been used to revise the Constitution, to take effect from 1 January 2017. Copies of the revised Constitution had been circulated to members; it has been approved by the Baptist Union of Great Britain, approval from the Diocese of St Albans has not yet been received.

Harrold and Carlton (Revised Local Covenant) The Installation and Induction of

the Revd Jacqueline Curtis and the Revd Peter Turnbull will be held today, Wednesday 12 October. The Revd Keith Brown will sign on behalf of the Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee.

Howard Memorial Church in Cardington Methodist/URC Single Congregation LEP

This has been agreed by Methodists and now agreed by BEC members.

St Margaret's Methodist and Blenheim Crescent Baptist Churches - The Olive Tree

Services are held at St Margaret's; part of the Methodist site has been kept and is used as a community centre. Alan Smith will check the present position, possibly to become an LEP.

10 Other Information

Lidlington Sharing Agreement This has now been signed by all involved.

BELIEF The 10th Anniversary has been celebrated and is now in partnership with St Albans Christian Studies; currently running a well attended Old Testament Course.

11 Any Other Business Appointment of Secretary already discussed.

12 Date of Next Meetings - 2017

Wednesday 18 th January	10.30am St Andrew's Church, Bedford
Wednesday 26 th April	10.30am Howard Memorial Church ***

*** Venue to be confirmed, Howard is not available.

The meeting ended at 12.35pm

Signed Date

JAH/October2016

Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee

Secretary/Administrator

Honorarium

Expenses

To commence 1st November 2016 Duties to include:

Service BEC

Support CEDO

Support Chair

Support Treasurer

Facilitate Annual Forum/Annual General Meeting

Deal with correspondence

Send mail shots: BEC Forum/membership letter CTs and LEPs

Liaise with other Ecumenical bodies in the County

Liaise with CTE Forum nationally

Liaise with Alan Dansey to assist with website