

Bedfordshire Ecumenical Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2016
Stewartby United Church

Present

Revd Mgr Sean Healy	Chair (Diocese of Northampton)
Revd Keith Brown	URC
Revd Andrew Gale	Luton CT
Jeff Bulled	Lidlington LEP
Eddie Gibson	Stewartby United Church
Lieut Col Bob Halliday	The Salvation Army
Jocelyn Harper	Secretary
Revd Andrew Hollins	Methodist Church
Revd Angus McCormick	Congregationalists
Anita Nancollas	CEDO
Revd Peter C Protheroe	Baptist Ecumenical Officer
Alan Smith	Luton CT
Revd Stephen Toze	Wilstead and Wixams
Peter West	Chaplaincy (BEECC)

1 Opening Worship Father Sean John 15 'Love one another ...'
Peter West was welcomed to the meeting

2 Apologies Alan Dansey Peter Hammond Roger Sewell

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2016

The Minutes were agreed and were signed as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising

Chairman Revd Andrew Hollins agreed to become Chair of the Committee; he is moving to Bedford later this year where he will have many responsibilities. He will value the administrative assistance of both Anita and Jocelyn. All were happy to welcome Andrew as Chair. This will be approved at the AGM on 11 May 2016.

Father Sean will continue working as a member of the Committee.

Development at Luton Alan Smith reminded the committee of the plans for three areas near Luton to be developed. This will be kept on our agenda.

5 Wixams We were sorry to learn that the URC is in the process of selling the Manse in spite of a letter sent by Revd Keith Brown clearly stating the need of this for the church. The house is sold subject to status.

There are several positive reports; the 'Messy Church' is going well with numbers between 50 – 60. The core number attending the Sunday services is 20 but not all attending each week; there is now a regular musician which is a great asset. £3,750 has been received from the National Methodist Fund. Both Revd Andrew Hollins and Revd Andrew Gale are closely involved with this work and Baptist and Methodist lay preachers make up the rota of preachers. The situation will be reviewed in June 2016.

The Revd Stephen Toze is still closely involved with the school, including pastoral care. He plans to start visiting shortly. He has taken several weddings and baptisms.

Father Sean commented on the encouraging signs of growth.

6 BEECC Update on review of Chaplaincy/Action Revd Cass Howes was unable to be with us as she was attending a funeral in Scotland. We welcomed Peter West (Co-Chair

of BEECC) who was able to explain some details of the Review and subsequent Action already taken and planned for the future.

The Partnership Group (Steering Group), Cass Howes, Andrew Goodman, Ruki Heritage, Peter West, David Dean, Bishop Richard meet regularly and have prepared a Document which had been sent to all BEC members. An amendment has been made: paragraph 3
...management, staff and students ... ***in all its locations.***

Discussion followed on several points in the document and it was agreed that there is still much to be discussed. The content of the Document was agreed by all present.

Peter was thanked for presenting the Document who in turn thanked Committee members for all the helpful comments and suggestions. These will be followed up.

7 CEDO (Anita Nancollas) An up to date list of all churches in Bedford, Luton and the villages is being compiled and should be ready by mid-May.

We are grateful to Alan Dansey for all his work with the website which is being well used.

Anita is meeting with members of the Christian Police Association later today.

The 'membership letter' is close to completion and will be sent out to all CT and LEP contacts shortly. Anita has been made aware of the lack of information passed to the contacts and is frequently asked to explain the purpose of BEC and the CEDO.

Father Sean assured Anita that this should not be her problem; these points will be covered in the letter. Anita was thanked for all the positive signs and for all her work.

8 Stewartby United Church (Sharing Agreement)

Details of the Agreement had been sent to Committee members and Eddie Gibson was at the meeting; unfortunately there have been no further developments.

The workers at Stewartby are few but there is a lot being done; two people had been welcomed into membership recently.

300 houses to be built in the area and they are planning to inform new residents of details of the church. Jeff Bulled suggested who might assist with this.

9 Finance (Peter Hammond) No details were available as Peter was unable to be present at the meeting. He has asked the Committee to agree to change our Bank from HSBC to CAF; this will be discussed later.

10 Annual Forum Wednesday 11 May 2016 at The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Flitwick. Details have been sent to all our usual Contacts and it is hoped that we might have more present. Anita is awaiting confirmation from a Pentecostal Church in Luton who will provide a Display of their work.

11 Any Other Business Putnoe Heights Single Congregation LEP

All members had received copies of the revised Constitution (amended 24 April 2016) and the Model Governing Documents (Constitution and Schedule). St Mark's Church is now a separate Anglican church. Putnoe Heights is a Single Congregation LEP and will receive both Methodist and Anglican Ministers. All agreed to the content of the Documents. Jocelyn was asked to inform Deacon Jane Mills of our agreement.

12 Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 12 October at 10.30am
at Our Lady Help of Christians Roman Catholic Church 52 Castle Street, Luton LU1 3AG

Signed

Date

JAH/May2016