



**Minutes of Churches Together in Bedfordshire
Annual Forum - 7.00pm on 10th May 2021 via Zoom**

Opening Devotions The Chair, Rev. Andrew Hollins, opened the meeting with Christian Aid Week material

Present: Mr Alan Dansey, Rev Andrew Hollins, Mr Steve Dolby, Mrs Adrienne Gordon, Rev Dr Paul Goodliff, Fr Sean Healy, Miss Elaine Sullivan, Mr Alan Ledwick, Mr Lawrence Patterson, Mrs Pauline Williams, Rev Dr David Chapman, Mrs Stephanie Field, Mrs Jenny Snelson, Mrs Catherine Roots, Mr Peter Gerrish, Rev Caroline Weaver, Rev Stephen Copson, Mr Jeff Bulled, Rev Vicki Bryson, Rev Julie Bradshaw, Rt. Rev. Richard Atkinson, Mr Stewart Leary, Rev Cass Howes, Mrs Rosemary Langley, Mrs Jenny Lloyd, Rev Simon Dommett, Rev Alan Smith, Mrs Sharon Stapleton, Mr and Mrs Simmonds, Sue Allen, Cannon Bennie Noonan, Rev Stephen Toze, Colin Last and George Tasker.

1 **Apologies for Absence** Mr Adam May, Mr. Michael Singleton, Mrs Lynne Gound, John Parkinson, Guile Butcher, Rev. Gill Baalham and Kevin Mc GinneI

2 **Approval of Minutes of 2019 Forum** – attached

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Mr. Alan Dansey and seconded by Rt. Rev. Richard Atkinson, the meeting agreed that they were a true record and Andrew Hollins signed them as such.

3 **Matters Arising** – No matters arising.

4 **Chair's Report** – attached

The meeting agreed to delegate approval of the accounts from this meeting to the Committee.

Andrew Hollins thanked Stephanie Field for her help with the finances as it is not in her job description.

Alan Dansey asked for thanks to be recorded for both Stephanie and Andrew.

5 **Finance** – This had been covered in the Chair's report.

6 **Appointments:**

Chair – Rev. Andrew Hollins was nominated by Alan Dansey. This was seconded by Cass Howes. The meeting agreed. Andrew noted that he will be leaving his current Methodist appointment in summer 2022, which may mean that he will no longer be serving in Bedfordshire. This will mean that a new Chair for Churches Together in Bedfordshire will definitely be needed by then. All in favour.

Treasurer – No nominations received. The meeting agreed to delegate this to the Committee

Independent Examiner – George Hay will be approached re being the Independent Examiner.

7 **Any Other Business**

Q1. Simon Dommett – Why are we paying the pension figures – Andrew Hollins answered that they are historical pension cessation events.

Q2. Simon Dommett – Are there any plans to appoint chairs of other groups in Bedford? – Andrew Hollins said that this is not in our scope.

Keynote Speaker: Rev Dr Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of Churches Together in England

"Picking up the threads of life after Covid — The Church as Weaver of the Tapestry of Mission."

Q1. Alan Dansey. Good point of Covid, reach has improved and there is a challenge to keep in person and on Zoom. Paul does not think we have done enough research in to theological outcome. Huge bonus for some such as people who can join their own congregation on zoom but others such as people who have asperges find zoom hard. Some people have joined who live far away and will never join church in person. Some people are doing other things whilst participating in zoom worship. Will online worship.....

Andrew Hollins said in his Church in Bedford, it is recorded and put on the website and people watch it later in the week. Also paper resources have been appreciated by members who cannot get to church.

Q2. Stephen Copson With the imagery of the tapestry lovely on one side and a mess on the other. How do we make

Q3. David Chapman – You spoke very powerfully about an ecumenical spring and we have too many buildings and not enough money How can

Andrew Hollins thanked Paul Goodliff.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm with the Chair leading us in prayer.