

**Minutes of Churches Together in Bedfordshire
Annual Forum - 7.00pm on 4th May 2022 via
Zoom**

Opening Devotions The Chair, Rev. Andrew Hollins, Today is the day we remember Saints and Martyrs of the reformation, Andrew read Isaiah 43 and spoke of Malcom Guite's observations and led us in prayer

Present: Rev Andrew Hollins, Mrs. Stephanie Field, Rev Cass Howes, Mr. Alan Dansey, Mrs. Dansey, Mrs. Carolyn Smith, Rev Stephen Copson, Rev David Chapman, Miss Elaine Sullivan, Mr Jonathon Peall, Mr Joe Peall, Fr Sean Healy, Mr. Colin Last, Mr. Peter Gerrish, Mr. Steve Dolby & Nicola Watson.

1. **Apologies for absence** Mr. Jeff Bulled, Mr. Michael Singleton, Ms. Gulie Butcher, Rev Andrew Johnson, Chris Lowe, Di Harpham, Rosemarie Langley & Canon Bennie Noonan

2. **Approval of Minutes of 2021 Forum**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Mr. Alan Dansey and seconded by Fr Sean Healy. 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**

See attached

Steve Dolby thanked Andrew Hollins for Chairing the meeting.

Alan also thanked Andrew, who has been very keen and will be a hard act to follow.

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

5 **Finance Report** circulated before the meeting, Sean Healy asked how much comes from the denominations and how much comes from the Local Churches Together Groups, the majority has come from the Denominations. Carolyn will list donations in future.

6 Appointments:

Chair – The Church Leaders are still pursuing a successor. AH will step down on 31st July 2022. The meeting agreed to devolve the appointment to the Committee and the Church Leaders Meeting, Andrew Hollins was proposed by Steve Dolby and seconded by Alan Dansey until 31st July 2022.

Treasurer – Carolyn Smith Proposed by Steve Dolby and seconded by Alan Dansey and agreed by the meeting.

Independent Examiner – Andrew Hollins is in negotiation with someone re this.

7 Any Other Business

- Secretary Vacancy – Andrew Hollins encouraged others to help find a secretary.

Keynote Speaker: Nicola Watson from Care for the Family

The Speakers presentation was followed by an opportunity for questions to be asked and/or comments to be made. The following contributions were made and responded to:

Q1 Andrew Hollins, is there a referral process?

Specialist support is done by self-referral, specialist do get in touch but they are asked to get the individual to get in touch. Tel 02920 810800

Q2 Alan Dansey, Do you have local representatives? There are some local representatives, visit the website.

Q3 Andrew Hollins, how much work do you do with schools? None as we work with adults and offer training to others.

Q4. David Chapman, Finds lots of anxiety in young people, like eating disorders and self harming. What is the impa.....

Befriending support, set up, Mind of their own book is invaluable to build resilience for young people and how looking at marriage, parenting and bereavement.

Q4. Steve Dolby, Mentioned Mums night out tonight which is a new event that is on tonight. Nicola said it is a celebration of Motherhood.

Annual Toddler group conference

Q5. Alan asked if there are plans to continue to use online services to reach out to more. Nicola said they hope to do hybrid where possible in the future.

Andrew thanked Nicola for what she had shared and Stephanie for facilitating the meeting.
The meeting finished at 8.15pm with the Grace