



Churches Together in Oxfordshire Enabling Group
Minutes of the Meeting held at Kidlington Baptist Church
on Monday, 30th September, 2019

Those present: Jason St. John Nicolle (Chair, Church of England), Martin Wellings (Vice-Chair), David Hare (County Ecumenical Development Officer), Chris Robbins (Treasurer), John Anderson (Methodist), Dave Llewellyn (Baptist), Glyn Millington (URC).

Apologies: None received.

1. The Chair opened the meeting in prayer and introductions were made.
2. *Minutes of the last meeting.* David apologised for the lack of Minutes from our last meeting.
3. *Matters arising from the last meeting:* None.
4. *Accounts.* Chris explained that all but one of the denominational subscriptions had been received. A reminder was needed to be sent to the Orthodox churches.

ACTION: CHAIR/CEDO

A reminder had been sent to the four 'churches together' groups who had not yet sent in their subscription.

The budget for 2020 had been sent out before the meeting; it was similar to this year, with the denominational contributions being unchanged. The budget was approved unanimously by those present. Chris was thanked for his work.

5. *Update on Oxford Brookes Chaplaincy Review.* The CEDO was able to report that the review had finally begun with Colin Thompson (URC), Anna Thomas-Betts (Anglican), Nick St. John (Roman Catholic), Elaine Ulett (University Christian staff member). It had proved very difficult to get the review underway for a number of reasons and David was commended for his efforts. There are a number of issues for the review to ponder, and it was hoped that a description of the current 'landscape' (for example, the influence of the University, the multi-faith nature of the chaplaincy) would be included. The question as posed by some at the meeting as to whether an LEP was an appropriate instrument for the chaplaincy. It was hoped to produce a draft report by the end of the year.

ACTION: Review Group/CEDO

6. *Update on Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys, LEP.* The CEDO's notes from the Holy Family Rebuilding Project meeting held in June had been circulated with the papers for this meeting, and the Chair gave a short summary, highlighting the problematic issue of funding the project. No one had received any updates on progress since that meeting.

Martin Wellings had summarised the project at a recent Circuit Meeting where it was reported that the building had been listed; if correct, this could add a further level of complexity to the project. The CEDO was asked to confirm the listing and ascertain the current state of the project.

ACTION: CEDO

Dave Llewellyn (Baptist) stated that he wasn't aware of any direct involvement by his denomination in the LEP.

It was agreed that any review of the LEP should be put on hold for the present time.

7. *Any Other Business*

(a) Anglican -

- Bishop Colin of Dochester was retiring next year after over 20 years in post.
- Venerable Olivia Graham, the Archdeacon of Berkshire was to be the new Bishop of Reading
- The Oxford Diocese was to focus on the climate crisis as part of their outreach and mission
- The Diocese had been challenged to create 750 new churches in the next ten years!

(b) Methodist -

- John Anderson said that he was looking for 'best practice' for churches welcoming relatively small numbers of new houses which is what was happening in his area of ministry. Dave Llewellyn recommended contacting Ali Boulton at the New Housing Hub.

(c) Baptist -

- Dave Llewellyn reported that Ali Boulton was no longer employed by the Baptist church as she was totally committed to the New Housing Hub. Her work of pioneering ministry was to be covered by the Regional Ministers, who were asking 'how do we measure the progress of new models of church'?

(d) URC -

- Glyn Millington reported that Rev Clare Downing, currently Moderator of the Wessex Synod, would be a Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly for two years starting in 2020.

8. Date of next meeting

- Enabling Group, 17th February 2020, 1.00pm at Kidlington Baptist Church
- Annual Meeting, 30th March, 2020, 7.30pm at Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GF. Bishop Colin had agreed to be our speaker.