

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission & care Partnership Meeting 3rd October 2017 at Headingley St Columba

A group of 24 met representing 9 churches and we received 10 apologies.

Clare welcomed us all and challenged us with a Kingdom reading from St. Luke about how WE invite and welcome folk - do we encourage; try to understand; exclude ourselves; do others exclude themselves? We sang 'All are welcome in this place'.

We shared pastoral news and prayer. It will be helpful for you to know that Peter Clarkson is on Sabbatical from 1st October and is researching 'The Persecuted Church'. Also, Alex Walker might not be around some of the time as he has started his treatment for Crohn's Disease, and the people of Wigton Moor would value your prayers at this very busy time regarding the renovation of the building. John Tilbury was remembered and he values all the cards and good wishes which were sent to him.

The date of the next Meeting is 10th January 2018 at West Park and **please send Jenny Poulter available/non available dates/days for future meetings.**

jandb.poulter1@ntlworld.com

Come into the Parlour said the Spider AND the fly!

An Update from Clare: Technology delays have made progress feel a bit slow, but on checking for this meeting Clare has actually been in touch with all the churches in the partnership. Her priority is to visit and understand more about the churches and how they view the partnership and the future. She has met various people and been to worship and other activities. Clare is intending to contact all church secretaries to meet up with a view to possibly coming along to Elders' meetings where appropriate. The local management and support group are meeting bi-monthly and Clare meets with her line-manager, Geoff Ellis, on the months in-between. There have been suggestions: to have a 'skills audit' of Ministers to see how these skills can be used more widely across Leeds, to visit the Sheffield Team Ministry, and for Clare to be part of the Appreciative Inquiry process. Clare has various church's activities already in her diary but would still value other information from churches. She is also interested in community outreach children's groups/uniformed organisations. Also Clare is compiling a file for each church and would welcome your newsletter/magazine/pew sheets etc.

Synod Green Apostle - Alex Jowitt: Alex's challenge to us was preceded by an interpretation of the Creation Story and pointing out that "What God did not give humans dominion over or the right to subdue were any non-living resources". Earth, land, water and air are needed by all God's creatures for their own sustainability and we do not deprive other creatures of these basic elements, nor our fellow humans. Alex then posed questions on our buildings' maintenance/sustainability/energy-saving devices and encouraged churches to enquire about climate justice and environmental care etc. and perhaps to draw up an environmental charter. This is only a brief reflection of Alex's presentation, challenge and encouragement to us, so please contact her either on

alex.jowitt@outlook.com or ecocongregation@standrews.cc. Churches shared some of the work that is already being done in this area within the M & C group including LED lighting, draught reduction/ventilation, recycling etc.

Update from Synod Pastoral Committee: Looking forward to the Induction of Rev Tim Lowe at **St Andrew's Roundhay** on 28th October at 2pm - all churches have been invited; Rev Tony Lee is beginning work as a **Companion for Cottingley** 1/4 time to help them discern the way forward on the model of the Northumbrian Community perhaps. (Commissioning is 26th October at 7.45 and all are invited). Offers to lead Sunday worship from the partnership would be appreciated. Rev Geoff Ellis has been appointed as Interim Minister (a Transitional Role) at **West Park**. There has been an expression of interest in the **Generation Y post. A Learning Communities meeting** at Stainbeck on 4th November 10am-2pm.

News from the churches: **Beeston Hill United Free Church** (Roy Sheard) gave a very interesting and informative presentation on Leng House Hostel, Heathfield, Pateley Bridge. This facility in beautiful countryside has been owned by Leeds Boys' Brigade Battalion since 1937 and they want to share it through hiring it out to groups. Up to 26 people can be accommodated in 3 dormitories, plus kitchen facilities, gardens and a Tin Chapel. An Information Pack was available for folks to take but if you are interested and want to learn more please contact carolnormanton@aol.com or on **07746 569507**. Also Rev Godfrey Nicholson has been given a 3-year extension with the church. 42 of them enjoyed a visit to Lytham St. Annes with the Circuit. A number of new families have joined and there are about 17 children for junior church. The church are looking to have worship and a faith meal to encourage the whole church to be involved in planning and asking the young people for their ideas. **Christ Church Halton** enjoyed a 'Come to Church Sunday' after much preparation, leafletting and visiting and praying in the local area. The Prayer Walk is being re-visited to note changes in the area and pictures of the service can be viewed on their Facebook page. **Headingley St Columba** are enjoying having their new minister and are looking forward to their Bonfire Party (4th November); Advent lunch and children's Christmas party. **St Andrew's Roundhay:** Induction of Tim Lowe 28th October; they have a new 'Time for God' placement with the Anglicans and Methodists through their long-standing Covenant and are looking to work more closely together. The part-time Administrator and Welcomer started this week and is already a good presence. There will be a series of Christian Aid lunches during the winter round the 5 churches and the WYDAN project will be run for refugees again. **Stainbeck** had a busy 1st October with Harvest Service by the Sunday Club leaders followed by a splendid Community Songs of Praise in the afternoon. On the 8th the service will incorporate 'Moving Forward' with Tim Slack, a culmination of many guided Appreciative Inquiry conversations with members and the communities who use the building. **United Reformed Church in South Leeds** reminded us of their Reflections Cafe on the 2nd Saturday and the Community Cafe on the 3rd Saturday. The Christmas Fair is on 4th November - all are invited. **West Park** : a few people attended Anne Lewitt's Induction in West Sussex which was a joyous occasion. Her new pastorate is very different from Leeds. They are delighted and very grateful to Geoff Ellis for agreeing to be Interim Minister. The Manse is ready to rent out. They enjoyed a Harvest Service and faith lunch. 'Queen of the Kitchen' Freda Roberts' funeral has taken place and she will be missed very much. The Christmas Fair is 25th November; the property group is working hard for the church to be 'green'; and folks may be approached to lead worship. **Wigton Moor** 3rd December is the 50th anniversary of the church as a fellowship and next year is the 50th anniversary of the church building. Please pray for the Elders during the next 3 months as they are without Peter and as they look forward to an exciting and challenging 2018. **The Bridge Church, Otley** We were told of the difference Revd Jason McCullough had made - they have been given a sense of 'this is our church' and through a process to design a logo (which was one of the children's sympathetically redrawn) the fellowship are being enabled to grow together in spirit. There is an afternoon every other Thursday for people living with dementia and their carers with a facility for confidential conversations with two people trained in dementia caring. The congregation is growing and the activities are becoming part of what the church is and the people belonging there.

Oh! the big spider stayed on the ceiling by the lighting but the big fly made a nuisance of itself by buzzing us all!!