

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission and Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held on Zoom on June 10th 2020

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions it was necessary to hold a virtual meeting. 30 people took part including our Synod Moderator, Rev'd Kevin Watson for whom this was his last meeting with us. There were 4 apologies and 8 churches were represented. It was a challenge to produce an attendance list from those shown on the screen as the images move around when new people join and there is no logic as to where people might be found once a second page comes into use!!

Devotions were led by the Moderator based on the wilderness experiences of Jesus from which he emerged empowered. The Word of God thus released into the world transformed lives. The disciples emerged from lockdown in the power of the Spirit – we were challenged to do likewise. Kevin used the word evangelization – the need not simply to convert individuals but all the institutions around us, a challenging task indeed!

The meeting was chaired by Rev'd Clare Davison and the main item on the agenda was news from the churches and how we were all coping with lockdown.

Our next get together is for worship on Zoom on Wednesday July 8th. Clare asked for volunteers to help with planning this service.

Church news

There were some common features affecting the majority of churches. Elderly congregations, many without internet access required a variety of methods to keep in touch. Phone calls and in some cases hard copy of newsletters are being used.

None of the churches was aiming to open for individual prayer as this is not normally part of the URC arrangements.

Zoom has now become an essential part of church life!!

Beeston Hill Concern about the future of their charity shop, will people come if there are no refreshments, and also about lettings.

Christ Church Halton Producing regular prayer and reflection sheets and newsheets. The community prayer diary has been updated to have a weekly rather than a monthly focus. Have tried Zoom worship and were due to have a Zoom messy church! The building has been open for pre-school children of key workers. It was suggested that the longer phone calls which now form part of the pastoral care should continue after lockdown as these have been very valuable.

Headingley St Columba The 100th birthday of one of their members had been celebrated recently. A weekly podcast of Sunday worship is being provided. The Elders have met on Zoom and Worship@4 took place on Zoom.

St Andrews Sunday worship is on Zoom, YouTube and Facebook. Activities for young people are taking place virtually as are evening reflections and prayer times and quiz nights. For Pentecost people were challenged to bake special cakes and these were shown in worship! A prayer wheel has been developed involving volunteers ringing people to chat regularly. A Zoom service had taken place with the Palatinate in Germany. **Stainbeck** Sunday Worship and Thursday evening prayers are taking place on Zoom and there is also a community café drop in session. Pastorally all members and friends are being kept in touch as are the lunch club members. There is still a connection to the wider community through Interact. Funerals are proving very challenging.

The URC in South Leeds Nightly prayer sessions are being held on Zoom and a small number of people are keeping in touch this way. They have 2 buildings to reopen. Dewsbury Road is used by 2 other congregations which complicates things. Trinity Network which uses both premises has furloughed all but 2 of the staff.

West Park The nursery which uses the premises is in financial difficulties as is Hawksworth Wood Food Bank. The church has made a donation to the food bank to help out.

Wigton Moor Consideration of building plans still in progress with fire exit due to be installed soon as a first step.

Other matters raised

- Thanks were expressed to those who are providing worship materials, podcasts or live services on Zoom (or similar).
- Linda explained that she and others are keeping in touch with those who have previously been involved with The Church in Cottingley to keep a Christian presence on the estate.
- People were reminded of the URC daily devotions which are available for their use.
- Attention was drawn to the situation of WYDAN and Jenny agreed to provide a document for circulation (This has been circulated since the meeting). Two houses are being sought in which to house asylum seekers.
- Godfrey pointed out that an advantage of podcasts was that it was possible to listen more than once whereas in a live service you can't do that.

Thanks and good wishes to the Moderator

As this was the last time that Kevin would be with us before his retirement Angela expressed the thanks and good wishes of the Mission and Care Group whilst waving the card which we would all have signed had we been able to!! Applause followed remotely!

The meeting closed with prayer and a blessing given by the Moderator.

This was followed by the opportunity to chat in small groups using the breakout room facility on Zoom.

Next meeting on Zoom:- Wednesday 8th July when we come together for worship which includes Holy Communion.

7pm for 7.30pm start. Link to follow