

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission and Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held online on Tuesday 16th March

25 friends from 8 of the Leeds churches met together in the comfort of their homes via Zoom, including the Moderator, Revd. Jamie Kissack. Apologies were received from a further 5.

Alex Walker, lay leader at the URC in South Leeds took the chair and opened with a reflection on a reading of 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 - God gives us strength so that we in turn can strengthen others.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12th May on Zoom

Notices:

Clare Davison publicized the *Welcome Directory* which is a data base of faith communities willing to support people released from prison. Publicity to be circulated. Sandra Barry spoke of working within a *Prayer group* which builds up contacts with Muslims.

Moderator's Synod news: 11th April the 5 Northern synods meet for 'It Just Works' conference organised by IT team; 17th April Annual elders conference, 'Wise and wonderful, the gift and responsibility of God's creation; 12th June JPIT conference on Green issues - only this one now available.

Jamie's priority is to coordinate the work of all groups across the synod in support of churches.

The meeting closed with the grace

Discussions in Brief:

Formation of Steering group as detailed in the email circulated to all churches: Responses from elders meetings were shared – Beeston Hill UFC and St Andrew's had not yet discussed the proposal and were asked to email elders meeting responses to Clare Davison. Christ Church Halton, Headingley St Columba, Stainbeck, URC in South Leeds and West Park all supported it. Wigton Moor had not held any meetings but Dr Moira Gallagher felt any disagreement was highly unlikely. No-one from St Mary's in the Wood, Trinity United, Trinity Rawdon or Wesley Road Armley were at the meeting.

Future Ministry across Leeds It is envisaged that by July 2022 another stipendiary minister would be called to Leeds. After giving the background to discussions the following statement was presented to the meeting for approval -

'Our Synod and the Leeds North and East Methodist Circuit have been looking at shared ministry at Christ Church Halton and if this is approved this could be part of calling a new minister to work within the Leeds partnership in future'.

Questions/comments:

How would Leeds churches use this ministry?

The Synod Treasurer was supportive of the financial implications of this and/or other roles.

An Action Plan is required - the steering group is to set up a task group to look at Stipendiary ministry across Leeds.

The Moderator and Clare will meet with the churches to ask for their perceived needs.

Moderator's meetings There will be discussions with people in all our churches between June and September when it is hoped we will be able to gather. The Moderator expressed enthusiasm for the project, his visits will be a priority for him and must be prioritized in church diaries. He suggested that Appreciative Inquiry principles would be used to help articulate vision.

Sharing of churches news:

All the churches are looking forward to returning to worship in their buildings when possible and are hoping to be able to celebrate Pentecost in church. Participating churches expressed enthusiasm for the Partnership Lent Courses.

South Leeds meet online for night prayer 5x each week, Trinity network has remained operational. Dewsbury Road has closed.

Stainbeck involved in Food pantry, a CAP franchise organised by InterACT, the church community project. Zoom services continue on Thursdays and Sundays when other churches have

joined us. Break out rooms provide opportunities for fellowship and for young people to gather and share their activity bags previously delivered to their homes.

Wigton Moor's heating problems have been solved. All AGM material to be circulated to members.

Headingley St Columba have had 3 funeral services held in the sanctuary. Podcast services continue to be organised by the Minister and the organist.

Beeston Hill have circulated the URC Lent bags, relaunched the newsletter and efforts are being made to re-engage with young people and others not seen for a while.

St Andrew's have live streamed Holy Week services planned and an Easter display in the church garden. Prayer times and social activities continue on Zoom, and Messy church in a bag delivered. They are re-thinking Youth work as the youth worker was made redundant due to lack of funds.

Christ Church have delivered Messy church activity packs and Easter Story booklets: 'What is Easter?'. Susan Durber's booklets have been ordered for Messy church parents. Coloured eggs to decorate outside church.

West Park Elders meetings are held on zoom; Good Friday and Easter day afternoon Zoom services are planned. Involved in the 'Breaking Bread' initiative: providing food and hospitality to those isolated. Through lack of use, repairs to the building are being undertaken.