

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission and Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held online - Tuesday 25th May

Over 40 people met together by Zoom including church secretaries, elders, members and ministers from 8 churches (Beeston Hill United Free Church, Christ Church Halton, Headingley St Columba, St Andrew's Roundhay, The URC in South Leeds, Stainbeck, West Park), our Moderator, Revd Jamie Kissack, Revd Jo Lighthowler, Superintendent of the Leeds South and West Methodist Circuit, and the Synod team now reviewing the Ministry and Mission Enabler post - Revd Zaidie Orr from Sheffield & John Eveleigh, Church Secretary the Bridge Church, Otley.

Moira Gallagher, Church Secretary Wigton Moor, chaired the meeting.

In the opening devotions she used the theme of Holy Habits inspired by the model of church in Acts 2:42-47 and the prayer of Sir Francis Drake with the thought of pushing out the horizons of our hopes with courage and love.

Moira closed the meeting with the Catch the Vision Prayer, and we shared the grace.

Options for ministry across Leeds

Revd. Clare Davison, Ministry and Mission Enabler, introduced the main theme of the evening with an update on the recent progress made by the Steering Group in exploring ways of sharing together in ministry in the coming years.

Clare reminded us of the achievements made before the first lockdown. Proposals on covenanting together and forming a team ministry had been discussed in the churches. The subsequent events in 2020 delayed the meetings planned to follow up the questions and details for agreeing a way forward.

A new opportunity has now arisen to call a URC Minister to the Leeds Partnership by September 2022. This is linked to providing Ministry for Christ Church Halton, working together with a Methodist Minister.

Clare offered some scenarios where the new Minister might also benefit named churches in the Leeds Mission and Care Group. This also could provide the opportunity to have team ministry in place to support all our churches.

It is expected in these options that each church would have a named person who will be a stipendiary, non-stipendiary or lay leader.

Clare encouraged discussion of these scenarios in break out rooms.

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| <p>The details of the presentations are being circulated with this Newsletter. There will be opportunities later to explore the options and to discuss the mission and ministry needs in each church in the Meet and Greet already planned from the end of June.</p> |
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Some of the comments and questions from the breakout rooms are over the page....

Some feedback from breakout rooms

There is a lot to take in hence the need also to study the details. There is positive feedback on the value of team working and for a more flexible form of it. There is concern to know how ministers will be chosen and called to a named church. More details are needed of how it will work and of the role of the new Minister. There is interest in knowing more about lay leadership. There is positive support for Elders taking leading roles. Synod recognises the role of Elders in Local Leadership.

Financial implications

Clare explained how stipendiary ministry is paid out of an M&M levy. LEPs pay a different element depending on whether they have URC Ministry. In this levy a mission element per member is paid by all churches. More details are in Clare's presentation including a budget for Stipendiary Ministers' expenses and how other roles might be financed.

A Roadmap for calling a Minister

Jenny Poulter presented a way forward. It is summarised below. The details are also being circulated.

ROADMAP

To call a Minister of Word & Sacrament to Leeds to be inducted by July 2022

- **Meet and greets:** end of June till end of July
- **Meeting for church treasurers:** July
- **Mission and Care Group service:** 13th July
- **Firm proposals to be circulated to churches:** early September
- **Mission and Care Group meeting:** 8th September
- **Church meetings to discuss proposals:** September 2021
- **Profile produced:** by first week in October
- **Profile submitted to Synod Pastoral Committee:** before 15th October
- **Profile goes to the Moderators' meeting and is added to the vacancy list sent to all Ministers:** November

The Meet and Greets

Sheana Dudley, our Pastoral Elder, encouraged everyone to get involved in the already planned church meetings with the Moderator and members of the Steering Group to discuss team ministry and the new ministry possibilities.

Ministry and Mission Enabler Review

Zaidie Orr encouraged churches to reply to a recent questionnaire if they had not done so already.

Prayer Group

Clare will follow up later with an invitation to a meeting.

Date of next MiCa meeting

Tuesday 13th July 7.30pm including a Communion Service with some time to share church news and visions for prayer. More details of this will follow later.

Members of the Steering Group

from 8 churches:

Terri Raddings, Jenny Poulter, Revd. Clare Davison, Aleck Brownjohn, Revd. Tim Lowe, Sheana Dudley, Alex Walker, Revd Angela Hughes, Revd. Geoff Ellis, Moira Gallagher

This MiCaNews is a summary from my notes at the time. Please read the full details in the attachments. Geoff Ellis