

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission & Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held at West Park Leeds 10/1/2018

37 of us, representing 10 churches, met cosily in the meeting room with 8 apologies.

Their Interim Minister, Revd Geoff Ellis, welcomed us and particularly Revd Tim Lowe (St Andrew's Roundhay's recently inducted Minister) and opened with Isaiah 52:7 - and words on sharing our news and The Good News. **West Park's update** was given by Irene Holstead who certainly held our attention through a potted history of ejection, imprisonment, meeting in secret and moving on to Water Lane, Queen Street and eventually West Park. Not to mention WWII prisoners asking to worship there! And up-to-date with what happens there on a weekly basis including house and fellowship groups various forms of exercise classes, toddlers, dancing and the Off By Heart Choir.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 13th March at Beeston Hill United Free Church.

PS. Leeds Faith Forum Christmas meal at the Mosque almost ended in disaster as it was noted that the mince pies contained brandy - but not before two little girls had eaten one!!

West Park, Leeds, Ministers Ejected From The Church And Imprisoned! (see below left)

Update from Clare: Although she is still getting to know her way around Leeds she has been to a number of events, joined 8 churches for Sunday worship; had 5 preaching engagements and 2 in the offing for this year, and is starting to understand about the churches. Clare has been meeting with Methodist colleagues, and has compiled a Ministers' skills questionnaire for current Ministers. She has been meeting with Church Secretaries and will be going to Elders'/Church Council meetings as she can and is offering to help churches with their 'Crisis & Opportunity' Paper responses. Clare is attending the Inviting Forward Training later this month. **Things for churches to think about from Clare:** skills audit of the churches with a view to resource-sharing; developing lay leadership and other forms of ministry; getting the Partnership more widely known in churches - copy MiCaNews for everyone in the congregation; a choir and social/meal and worship together. **Sheffield Visit:** Clare and 4 others made a visit to the Sheffield team ministry (3 years old) which is one model among many of how team ministry can operate. Leeds is learning with a view to developing our own. Sheffield's 3 Ministers work as a team over 9 URCs and do some work in 5 LEPs also. No congregation has a named Minister and they all share the workload, meeting fortnightly to review and have a flexible overall plan. Church Secretaries let individual Ministers know of urgent pastoral care needs. Interestingly, the churches feel they are better resourced than one Minister spread thinly over 4/5 churches.

Response to 'A Crisis and an Opportunity' Letter: This is a letter from Synod Office requesting churches to respond by June 2018 on their own looking forward; mission opportunities; resources and resource-sharing; ecumenical partners/inter-faith sharing etc. in the light of fewer Ministers in the future. Our ecumenical partners' involvement was discussed and also whether the M & C Partnership should make a separate response. Also would you want to share your church's response with the M&C group? This is Synod Office wanting to respond to the churches (not telling them what to do) and the

consultation will probably be over a period of 18 months. *It is important that this is taken seriously and will be on the Agenda of a future meeting.*

News from Central Pastoral Group: Confirmation that Terri Raddings is the new Ecumenical Officer for the Central Group; **Lay Presidency Training is being organised** and Angela Hughes would like any further names from churches. Those already trained can attend as a 'Refresher'. **Interim Moderator's role** has now become a transitional ministry role (encouraging and working through such responses as in 'Crisis and Opportunity' Paper.)

Learning Community: Ann Coates gave an entertaining and informative history of the Elders Development Group from 2010 to the present and included information from the first Learning Community Day on 4th November 2017 at Stainbeck Church. About 40 people gathered and the day was led by Linda Rayner the URC National Fresh Expressions co-ordinator, with input from Anne Parker (Trinity Network), Christ Church Ilkley (soft play area), Stuart Nixon (Pioneer Minister in Salford) and Jenny Horton (church services for the deaf). We need to change! **Up!** Pray for guidance; **In!** Get involved together and support/mentor the work the church is doing, **Out!** Go out into the community or provide a service they can access (social media?), **Through!** Use help and funding from other churches and bodies/groups and **T.E.A.M.** Together Each Achieves More. It was agreed that many people would like help with a Community Audit and this may be done at the **next meeting which is at Christ Church Ilkley on 24th February.** (Details winging their way to you shortly). The next **Elders Conference is 28th April at St Andrew's Rounday.**

Church News: Headingley St Columba: The Church Guild is holding a Scottish Afternoon on **Tuesday 23rd January at 2.30pm.** This is a fund-raiser for Martin House. Small Bring and Buy Stall and try your hand at Bagatelle. Everyone is welcome and if 4 or more are coming from your church ring Joan McShane on 0113 225 1166 for catering purposes. **Cottingley:** Tony Lee thanked folks for attending his Commissioning Service and he is hoping next week to begin a group of 4/5 non-churchgoers in 'Café Conversation'. Linda and Tony are leading a Bible Study and every last Thursday in the month there will be a Prayer Walk at 9.30am. If you can't join in remember to pray at 9.30 every Thursday when Tony and others will be praying. The Praise evening with Ashley Evans was a success as was the Carol Service and the Christmas Lunch (with members of the Zimbabwe church joining). There will be a Messy Church at the end of January and perhaps afternoon services once a month. And a Women's World Day of Prayer Service. **Stainbeck:** Great Carol and Mid-night services and the AGM is coming up soon. Music Gig **Saturday 13th January £10.** The Lunch Club is expanding rapidly; there will be a Community Theatre production "Wind of Change"; and a Women's World Day of Prayer service at 2.30. **St Andrew's Roundhay:** involved with WYDAN again w/c 19th February. They hosted a Carol Concert for the local nursery at their request, with a real reindeer! **Christ Church Halton** are involved with WYDAN on 15th January and this is a new venture for them. The annual Crib Service was very well attended when ALL the children got to dress up and take part. On 9th January the Guild had a 'story-telling' dinner with the meal interspersed with short stories. **West Park:** Blessed to have Geoff Ellis as Interim Minister and he is sharing worship in Abbey Churches Together service at the Catholic Church on the 21st. He is leading worship at least once a month. Abbey Churches Together had a Nativity Service in Kirkstall Abbey with a real donkey and baby! **Beeston Hill United Free Church:** are looking at a 5-year plan and are making sure that everyone will be involved in the deliberations. Also they are in talks with the Methodists and the Baptists. Well-attended Christmas services and the children will be going away to Pateley Bridge in 2018 and are having the Christmas Party in a couple of weeks' time at McDonald's (their choice!). **St Mary's in the Wood, Morley:** John Tilbury thanked everyone for the way that he had been supported after he had his emergency hip replacement. The church's Memory Cafe was awarded 1st Prize as the Leeds Outer South Community Organisation of the Year and the annual **Pancake Bell ringing will take place from 11am - noon and pancakes will be eaten on 13th February** (Shrove Tuesday); all are invited. Morley is in the

process of becoming a Fair Trade town and at least 2 of the church members are on the Steering Group.

United Reformed Church in South Leeds: Very pleased to have Alex Walker as their Interim Moderator and he will be chairing the Church meeting on the 14th and presenting his thoughts on our working and praying in the community. Shirley Rawnsley (due an operation 11/1) and Michael Beard (awaiting further treatment) and Derek Leighton (who died yesterday) have been on the minds of the fellowship over Christmas. **Wigton Moor:** have celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Peter Clarkson has been unable to take his sabbatical as he has been signed off on sick leave. He is hoping to return to work at the end of this month.