

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission & Care Partnership Meeting

15th May at Wigton Moor

We had a bumper meeting of 33 of us representing 9 churches and Generation Y, with 3 apologies.

Alex Walker welcomed us, telling us about the building project they Wigton Moor are in the process of moving forward, to open the building out with large windows looking into a good-sized café worship area and a new kitchen. He then led devotions: Psalm 100 read responsively and the hymn, 'Be thou my vision'.

Our highlight of the evening: David Robinson spoke a little about the background to the Generation Y post, built on the need for a Universities Chaplain and someone to work with the age group 18-25year old's who are not part of the Universities, and introduced Rev'd Samantha Sheehan who was Inducted to the post at Headingley St Columba on Sunday 29th April.

Samantha then introduced herself and a bit of her history, having moved from Gravesend, and how the new role is shaping up. She works with the Chaplaincy team 3 days a week (60% time), so far seeing what the other Chaplains are doing, what works best, talking with students, and working out how to engage with that age group. The Chaplaincy team work together to cover all the University sites. The other 40% of her time is currently around Leeds and she wants to work with the Mission & Care group. One of her tasks to start with is to work out where the rest of the age group are who don't go to Uni, and how to work with them. She is going around the Churches on a Sunday attending worship. Samantha has asked for her contact details to be made known:
Email rev.s.sheehan@gmail.com
Tel. 0113 274 2026

Date of next Meeting: Monday 2nd July at St Mary's in the Wood, 7 for 7.30pm

Other items

Synod paper The draft response from the Mission & Care Partnership to the 'A Crisis and an Opportunity' paper was accepted by the meeting and will be sent to Synod. Thanks to those who prepared it.

Do you believe in ghosts? Rev'd Tony Lee shared a review of his first 6months as Companion to Cottingley. From this question around Halloween time arose discussion, which led a series of Coffees and Conversations with a group of women from the estate and Community Centre. He has been prayer walking the estate using Brigid's Prayer. This had led to significant healing conversations with residents. He has been joined on these walks by a man from the S Pacific who lives on the estate. Looking forward: watch out in the autumn for Cottingley Songs of praise featuring Stormzy and words from the Bee Gees and others; and a Gospel Choir.

An Update from Clare In brief: I've spent some time helping some of the Churches with their response to the 'Crisis and an Opportunity' paper; have been on the Appreciative Inquiry training & Ministers' Conference; have lead worship in some of our Churches with others in the diary (please no preaching fees as I'm there in my role), among other things.

Speed Sharing event, Tues 11th Sept, 7 for 7pm: Clare ran through what to expect from the event, what Churches need to do, and we discussed timings, agreeing to a 7pm start for the faith tea. Further discussion next meeting.

Wilderness items: **1/** Reminder of the BIG Church Gathering, Saturday 9th June at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. **2/** Free 'Faith Formation Training', Saturday 14th July at Heckmondwike. **3/** Praying with Children: a 90 minute session Stef and Meghan are willing to bring to church. Angela suggested we do this as a group, which was felt to be a good idea. Look out for a date fixed soon.

News from the churches: Wigton Moor had

a good Easter and recently launched their Community Coffee Stop. Members and friends make the cakes, they leafleted 2000 local houses, and their first one had a great number of people. It has now settled down and building relationships. Rev'd Peter Clarkson is much better and is now on sabbatical, studying the persecuted Church. Pray for him especially. **Stainbeck** are looking forward to Pentecost, with a baptism, Church anniversary and faith lunch, and a concert on Saturday 21st. Pray for everyone this weekend. **West Park** had a great Easter and Good Friday ecumenical walk of witness, stopping at all the Churches on the way, to Kirkstall Abbey, with devotions there. 30 people came along. They feel blessed to have Geoff and grateful for those coming to lead worship other weeks. The buildings are rented out every day of week, and people admire them. The last 2 Sundays they have been an island with the Tour de Yorkshire, so they had a faith lunch and discussion on the 'Crisis and an Opportunity' paper, and the half marathon with breakfast. Pray for younger people to take over the jobs in the Church. **St Andrews Roundhay** hosted the successful Synod Elders' day. They are part of Roundhay arts trail with many people coming in to look at the artwork. They have spent lots of time on data protection, with 2 training sessions of Elders with Willie Duncan, who is also doing one for Synod staff extended to all Churches. They are live screening the Royal wedding on Saturday from 10.30am, inviting people to bring a picnic. Alex Jowitt is coordinating local ecumenical outreach for all ages on green issues. They recently invited a local MP to talk about fracking, as issue in Yorkshire. Pray for the future direction of the Church. **Church Together in LS11** are again giving books to primary schools for their year 6 pupils as the books moving to secondary school. Alex Walker at **URC in South Leeds** has been into a local school to strengthen connections there. They are in their first steps of the inviting forward process. Pray for someone to come forward as an executive member of Trinity Network. **Beeston Hill** are reformatting their charity shop. They have a Fresh Expressions craft activity on a Friday morning now. The Church children going away for weekend in July. It will be the last away weekend together before some of them will be going off to University. Pray for the young people, whether they are staying or going and that they continue to have say and develop in Church life. **Cottingley** have only 3 vacancies left on their 2018 preaching plan and are told they're doing well. They are having Harvest as a Messy Church, inviting the community. They are having a Coffee afternoon tea in September and a bake-off in memory of Janet. They had a political group in pre-elections, with a great many people over the thresh-hold. Pray for growth. **Christ Church Halton's** Methodist Minister Rev'd Robert Creamer is on sabbatical. Les Sykes, who had a lot to do with the building of the present site, has passed away, funeral this Friday. The Guild are having a plant sale this weekend, Thursday, Friday & Saturday. They have had a Churches Together pilgrimage around the local Churches. At each Church they were given a phrase which was part of a whole letter, which was read out at the final Church where they had a good service at the end. Pray for the worship team who are taking a number of services while Robert is away. **Headingley St Columba** were delighted to host Samantha's Induction service. They have re-inaugurated the Bible Study group with 2 groups called Coffee & Conversation. They plan to start Holy Habits in the autumn. On the 26th June the Guild afternoon talk is on the organ by Professor Ian Lawrie, in Sanctuary at 2.30pm. Pray for the Coffee & Conversation groups to thrive. Clare brought news of **Wesley Road Chapel** for prayer, as 6 members have passed away since January.

AOB 1/ Notice of Oberammergau 2020. **2/** Angela asked about green funding from the Leeds General Purposes Fund, which may be a possibility as long as it is for mission. **3/** Alex Walker minuted the passing of Michael Beard a member of the URC in South Leeds, who had also been at Wigton Moor. His funeral was attended by over 200 people. He will be very much missed. **4/** Alex let us know that he finishes treatment next week and asks for prayer. It's his birthday this Thursday. His other news is he starts work at a new school, half time, in September.

Future meeting dates: 2nd July at St Mary's in the Wood, 7 for 7.30pm

11th September, Speed Sharing event at The URC in South Leeds

13th November at Stainbeck, 7 for 7.30pm

Alex closed by praying for all the Churches before we blessed each other with the Grace.