

# MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

## **Mission and Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held at Headingley St Columba 15/1/2019**

27 of us met representing 8 churches, Generation Y and the Synod. We were pleased to welcome the Moderator back following his sabbatical. There were 7 apologies.

Clare Davison, Minister at Headingley St. Columba and the Leeds Partnership welcomed us, opened with prayer and then led devotions in the early part of the meeting. Using the reading from 1 Corinthians about the Gifts of the Spirit and how we are all part of one body in Christ she spoke briefly about how this relates to the Leeds Partnership. Clare then told us a little about the ongoing activities at the church. Like many other churches they are studying Holy Habits and began with Biblical Teaching moving onto Fellowship next. There is a group of young people (teenagers up to 16 years) meeting monthly at the manse and also studying Holy Habits. Headingley St Columba is also trying to reach out to students and provided refreshments for the Otley Run which is a student event in the local area. The students were very pleased and surprised to have free food provided!

Clare is now working from the vestry in the church and the phone number is 0113 2752359 should you wish to contact her there.

**The next meeting will be held at Wesley Road Chapel, Armley on Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm for 7.30pm start.**

### **Update from Clare:**

- Local Management Group - ongoing discussions with ecumenical ministers. The next meeting re ministry in LEP's is being led by Rev'd Jo Lightowler (Methodist).
- Ian Henderson has sent a reconciliation of Clare's expenses to all church treasurers. These are very much in line with the budget set.
- A reminder was given that it would be helpful if the updated "Activities in churches" sheets given out at the last meeting could be returned as soon as possible please.
- Clare recommended the Old Testament day with Rev'd Dr Janet Tollington – "Many tribes but one people"- due to be held at the URC South Leeds on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. The details had been sent to all churches and flyers were available. A simple lunch can be provided for £3.50 if numbers are known in advance. South Leeds would like to have numbers by Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Janet is also preaching at St. Andrews Roundhay on the Sunday morning (24<sup>th</sup>) at 10.30am.

### **The Persecuted Church**

Peter Clarkson talked about his recent sabbatical during which he had spent time studying aspects of the persecuted church worldwide. He started by saying that he felt that URC Ministers were very privileged to be able to take a 3 month sabbatical every ten years and expressed gratitude for that. In addition to study he had been able to attend the National Ministers conference, some prayer retreats, improve his fitness by gym attendance and gardening and find time to relax to recharge his batteries.

He had spent time working with two organisations that work with the persecuted church, Open Doors and the Barnabas Fund and also met with other people involved in this work including some of those who had come to this country because of persecution, particularly from Eritrea. About two thirds of the world's Christians live in countries where there is persecution and as a faith it is in danger of being wiped out in the Middle East, the lands where it began.

Peter had studied 1 Peter in depth and mentioned a variety of books which he had used to aid his study.

He had spent a week in Rome visiting sites related to persecution including the Coliseum, Catacombs and Marmatoum Prison where it is possible that Peter was imprisoned.

Peter outlined the United Nations and Biblical definitions of freedom of religion and also listed four main reasons for the persecution of Christians being religious nationalism, Islamic extremism, totalitarian ideology and secular ideology.

If any church would like to hear more about these matters please get in touch with Peter.

It was stressed that the one thing that we can all do is to pray for these situations and this section of the meeting ended with prayer.

## General News

- Updated profiles for the prayer booklet need to be with Jenny Poulter by the end of January.
- The URC has a stand at the Christian Resources Exhibition in Manchester 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> March
- Inviting Forward – a team had visited the URC in South Leeds who had found it beneficial. Anne Parker recommended this to other churches.
- Wigton Moor have a speaker coming from Christians Against Poverty to morning worship (10.30am) on January 27<sup>th</sup>. All welcome.
- It is Christ Church Halton's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October and there will be events to celebrate.
- St. Andrews will be once again providing a week of accommodation for asylum seekers during February half term.
- The Moderator reported that Stef Hoyle (CYPDP) was leaving the Synod (she had a new job closer to home); the Synod Clerk was retiring; and the Trust and Property Secretary's role will be separated with a new appointment to cover URC Trusts alongside Sheila as Property Secretary. The Synod Clerk's hours and job spec are being increased and these new appointments will be made with the aim of developing a strong team for the future.

The meeting ended with prayer and sharing of the grace.

### Diary dates

**Fairtrade fortnight** – last week of February and first week of March.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** Big Brew event Beeston Hill 2pm – 4pm

**Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> – Elders' Day at St. Andrews, Roundhay.** Theme:- Holy Habits with input from Andrew Roberts who wrote both the book and the booklets.

**Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> – Yorkshire Assembly Scarborough.** It is hoped to run a coach from Leeds and we are looking for someone to organize this.

**First Aid Course** - A Saturday yet to be arranged at St. Andrews, Roundhay. This is a six hour course and costs £50 to attend (less if higher participation). It can only take place with at least 15 participants so a date will be booked once this figure is reached. If interested contact Beverly Gilbert [children@standrews.cc](mailto:children@standrews.cc) . It should be possible to obtain funding to cover the cost (Leeds General Purposes Fund).

### Future Mission and Care Group meeting dates

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March; Wesley Road Chapel, Armley

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May; Trinity United Church, Roundhay Road

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July; Christ Church, Halton

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September; St. Andrews, Roundhay

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November; The Church in Cottingley