

MICANEWS

Leeds **M**ission and **C**are Group

Mission and Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held at Christ Church Halton on 10.7.2019

28 of us met representing 9 churches and the University Chaplaincy (18-25 project) and including the Synod Moderator.

We were welcomed to Christ Church by Jenny Poulter who led opening worship based on the story of the Good Samaritan. Our Moderator then added a modern day story from his own experience.

Rev'd Angela Hughes then presented a card from the partnership to Rev'd Peter Clarkson who was leaving Leeds to take up a new pastorate in Gloucester. She wished him well on behalf of us all.

Jenny gave an update on activities at Christ Church which would soon celebrate 30 years since the covenant was signed between Halton URC and Halton Methodist Church to form the LEP. The building was opened in 1993. Prayer walks had been held in the area resulting in prayer concerns being identified. These are due to be repeated in the near future. The local shops have been informed that they are being prayed for and have responded positively to that news. Messy Church is held monthly and about 30 children attend with their parents. The Guild has been running for about 60 years and still attracts about 50 people, not all church members, to the varied Tuesday evening meetings. A lunch club is also held at the church.

Update from Rev'd Clare Davison

- The next meeting which will be held at St. Andrew's Roundhay on Wednesday 11th September will focus on Ministry requirements (all sorts) of the churches in the Partnership. The Management team will present their thoughts and Jason McCulloch and Simon Copley will be attending representing relevant Synod committees.
- From October the Synod pastoral Elder role will be handed over from Rev'd Angela Hughes to Sheana Dudley from St. Andrew's.

18-25 Project – Summary of presentation

Rev'd Samantha Sheehan came to talk to us about the 18-25 Project (formally known as Generation Y Project). Samantha is the URC University Chaplain in Leeds and is exploring good practice guidelines for how congregations can engage with 18-25 year olds.

She gave a presentation on her findings so far and an introduction to the work she is doing.

A lot of what was discussed is summarised in the 20-40's task group report to General Assembly, along with questions to help us start to think about where our strengths are and where there are already potentials for making contact and building on current relationships (this might mean thinking outside the box). This document will accompany MICA news along with the presentation slides.

Some of the key points and challenges are to foster environments which feel like safe places to express doubt and uncertainty about faith, the existence of God, and evil in the world. To be authentic in our conversation – not to have all the answers, to share stories and experiences. A place where open and honest conversation can happen. Finally a place to belong - belonging requires emotional engagement, relationship and participation in a group or community – where everyone can share in service and worship – to give as well as receive. Samantha is available to meet with local churches/elders meetings/small groups of people/church meeting to explore what it might look like for them in their context. Don't hesitate to get in touch. Her contact details are:-

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Thanks to Samantha for providing all the documentation to

circulate and the summary of her presentation which has only been slightly edited!

A reminder of Clare's contact details:-

07485065413 (mobile)

01132752359 (vestry)

Future meetings

Wednesday September 11th St. Andrew's Roundhay

Please all come with suggestions for ministry requirements at your churches and across the Partnership. Be as creative as you like!!

Thursday November 12th at The Church in Cottingley