

MICANEWS

Leeds Mission and Care Group

Mission and Care Leeds Partnership Meeting held at St Andrew's Church, Roundhay on September 11th 2019.

23 of us met together representing 9 churches

We were welcomed to St. Andrew's by Rev'd Tim Lowe who led opening worship based on his experiences at the Greenbelt Festival. He then gave us an update of some recent and current activities at the church. These included a Start course which is a pre Alpha course and stemmed from LYCIG, and a community audit leading into a vision day in October to be led by Peter Ball. They have welcomed a new Time for God volunteer who will be with them for the next year. His name is Ryan and he comes from Idaho.

Points to note:-

Sheana Dudley from St. Andrew's will become our Synod Pastoral Elder from October when she takes over from Rev'd Angela Hughes. Our thanks to Angela for all she has done for us during her time in that role.

The next meeting is on Thursday November 12th at the URC in South Leeds, Belle Isle. Representatives of the Synod Ministries and Pastoral committees will be present and **it is hoped that all churches will be represented at this meeting** to plan future ministry for Leeds. The aim is that this will not just be a talking shop – action should follow!!

Discussion about future ministry for Leeds took place in groups and together at the meeting.

This was Clare's introduction to the topic.

"The management group have been mulling over, along with other Leeds Ministers and lay leadership, future ministry in Leeds. A lot has fed into this, including ecumenical meetings, the vision and opportunity responses and what I've gleaned in my role in Leeds over the last 2 years.

This is not meaning just ordained ministry, but other forms of ministry as well.

I said at our last M&C meeting in July to discuss within your own Churches thoughts to bring to this meeting. Of course, we've had the summer in-between, so that may not have been possible, but I trust those here can bring something of what you know of your Church's current thoughts to our discussion this evening.

What I bring to this meeting from the meeting last week, which included the management group, those over other congregations in Leeds, and Kevin Watson, are two separate but interwoven proposals for us to discuss now"

Proposal 1

The formation of a team to serve the Leeds Partnership, which could include ordained ministers, lay leaders, worship leaders and preachers, youth workers, family workers, administrators, treasurers, trainers, a CRCW...

- For a team to work in the future, need to look to different forms of ministry
- Roles such as a CRCW, family worker, an administrator and treasurer are ones which have so far been suggested within the Partnership.
- Funding these is an issue to be thought about at another stage, thinking of pay-what-you-can financial model.
- Team includes applying for another minister of word and sacrament, to be inducted to the Partnership, potentially to live in south Leeds, and to work flexibly in various congregations as the need arises and as changes happen within our congregations.
- Acknowledge need for a named person for each congregation, a minister of word and sacrament, a lay leader or a minister of another denomination in some LEPs.

Proposal 2

That churches agree to form a covenant together, as a way of showing our commitment to work together, and to formalize the Leeds Mission & Care Partnership...

- A very positive next step in the Partnership.
- Would help us to underpin and progress team working at all levels, and give our progress some authority within our LEPs.
- A Covenant could be inaugurated in a joint worship service, at which each Church would commit to the Covenant, signed by representatives of the Churches. There would thereafter be an annual covenant service of recommitment to each other as Churches.
- Churches which, for whatever reason, do not feel able to covenant at this stage will be able to do so another time.

The following questions were used as discussion starters

For Proposal 1

- If a team was formed across Leeds, how would you see it working?
- What forms of ministry would you see as an important part of it which could help your Church in its mission?
- Is there anything else you'd like to add to the management group's thinking?

For Proposal 2

- How do you respond to the idea of a covenant of Churches?
- What benefits do you see to this?
- How do you think your Church could be committed to making it work?

Constructive discussions took place and these will continue at the next meeting.

Other matters

- Suggestion that the churches in the partnership should worship together occasionally, possibly on a Sunday afternoon.
- The Management Committee mentioned above includes Clare Davison, Terry Raddings, Aleck Brownjohn, Angela Hughes, Sheana Dudley, Jenny Poulter and Geoff Ellis.
- URC in South Leeds - hope to hold a commissioning service for Alex Walker as Pastor once they have clearly defined the role. It was suggested that Synod could provide guidance on this.
- The Church in Cottingley - has been suspended for the next year and the situation will then be reviewed.
- Beeston Hill are using "Inviting forward" and finding it exciting.
- Stainbeck URC - new kitchen and lift are almost complete.
- Christ Church Halton - had held a flower festival to celebrate 50 years since signing the covenant to become an LEP.
- Barry Parker has a film about Jean Vanier of L'Arche Community available to borrow.
- Wigton Moor URC have plans to improve facilities particularly kitchen and toilets and are working on raising funds for that purpose. Community involvement is being encouraged.
- West Park URC - will be holding a meal after their carol service to which they are inviting all the groups that use the church building.
- Headingley St. Columba URC will be holding their harvest festival as a major event in October.
- Rev'd Angela Hughes distributed some URC leaflets, one about the URC and one about membership and suggested that churches could obtain further supplies and make use of them.

A reminder of Clare's contact details

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