

**East of Eden Mission Communities (MC)
Feedback from 'Conversations' Kirkoswald on Monday 31st October,
Langwathby on 1st November and Ousby on Wednesday 3rd November
2016**

31.10.16 Representatives from Anglican and Methodist congregations of Lazonby, Kirkoswald, Great Salkeld, Renwick and Ainstable. 46 present.

'How can we adopt the teaching and prayer of Jesus and be faithful to the calling?'

The need to use our imagination

Group 1

1. The importance of schools
2. Good example of Tea Break at Lazonby being a 'Fresh Expression'
3. Large number of buildings an issue
4. Lay recruitment and training needed so that all phases of life can be included in the life of the church
5. Community commitment essential 'All the same people do the same jobs in the village'

Group 2

1. Communication a big issue and a difficult one to solve both within the MC and also relating to people outside the churches. Need to focus on modern means to link with younger people e.g. Facebook and Twitter
2. Real consultation on the development of the MC is important
3. Different ideas work well e.g. KO Christmas Eve procession, Café Church, providing a listening ear service via doctor's surgery, Gospel singing group or event etc
4. Need to keep contact families post baptism
5. Carry out a skills audit across the Mission Community – within and without the existing congregations
6. ensure prayer support for the community
7. Older Christians have tremendous life experience to offer
8. Set up 'Tea Break' idea at Kirkoswald?
9. Recognise and draw on the wide experience of church members
10. Focus on the Lazonby chapel as a church/community meeting point

Group 3

1. Instead of a House for Duty appointment we should consider a community/youth worker.
2. We need to identify the skills of our lay people and then identify training needs.
3. Consider a Stewardship campaign focussed on talents, not money.
4. Identify the needs of our community's e.g. Spiritual, social. Consider particularly those who cannot come to us e.g. Housebound, lonely. What can we do for them?
5. There are two approaches to pastoral care/visiting in Langwathby. Andy Holiday is the Methodist focal point and visits over 400 people pa. It would be good for Andy and Gillian (who is leading the newly formed group) to get together and share ideas.
6. There are many joint events which are, or have been, a great success. These include: Lent courses; Messy Church; Xmas journey; Harvest Festivals; Café Church; Remembrance Sunday; Easter at Hartside; Palm Sunday procession; Carol Service; KO Xmas Eve; Carol singing. We should form a 'task and finish group' to look at the coming year and identify this major events where we should: plan ahead, think bigger, invite others, and involve others. The objective is that these events reach out

to the wider community. We must think bigger and bolder which requires better forward planning.

7. Visit everyone who moves into a new home.
8. There is plenty of evidence that the best way of growing the Kingdom is through personal invitation to get involved, not necessarily to come to church. Let's reflect on that and decide how we can involve people, rather than assuming we have to fish in the same pond. We may need to train/help people to do this e.g. How to tell their one 'story' (or testament).
9. Publicise everything on the new website
10. Make sure details of Steering Group (and minutes) are on the website.
11. Form a Working Group to look at all our buildings.

Comment: CCL – Cumbria Christian Learning offering tailor made training for lay people – available ecumenically

Group 4

1. How can we best serve the community?
2. Reluctance of congregations to travel - offer car share?
3. Hold an event across the MC on an agreed date to get to know people better e.g. a cake making day
4. Nurture groups – importance of small groups in getting to know each other and sharing faith. MC could formalise this.
5. Need to take Christianity out of the church
6. Young people don't understand the church
7. Have our styles had their day? MC could provide variety – don't be afraid to try new things.
8. People **do** want the church to remain in the villages and will help with cleaning etc

Comment: The Bishop of Penrith quoted about 'turning the church inside out'

Group 5

1. Church and chapel at Great Salkeld separated by a big hill
2. Already share some services but limited numbers
3. As a community – how do we reach out?
4. People want the building to remain but don't want to engage in attending
5. Therefore there is a need to meet together to share spiritual resources and 're-ignite'
6. What ordained ministry do we have to help us?
7. Concern about lay and practical support
8. Role of clergy to pass on new initiatives across the MC
9. People want to feel involved e.g. e mailing people for a story or people before a service helps this.

Group 6

1. Avoid clashing service times within villages
2. Think about worship not just being on Sundays
3. People are nervous about stepping out and don't like travelling to other places
4. Do some market research – what works well in other churches? Report back.
5. Transport for the 11-18 group - community minibus would be great
6. Fostering lay readers and training
7. How many worship opportunities do we want as a whole Mission Community?

Group 7

1. Fresh ideas make people feel part of the church family
2. The importance of congregations understanding pastoral needs of the community
3. Use social occasions to get to know each other better

4. People have different communities e.g. Facebook
5. A need to have a process for going forward in terms of decision making

Questions and comments

1. The MC is two months old. Don't think anyone stopping you doing things.
2. This evening provides an opportunity to share your views and they will be taken into account
3. The importance of using the website
4. ? Annual meeting
5. ? David's replacement has to be carefully chosen
6. ? steering group – narrow
7. Financial resources have become available to C of E?
8. More need to worship together
9. More consultation with the churches needed

1.11.16 Feedback form the Langwathby group representing Methodists and Anglicans from Addingham, Gamblesby, Langwathby, Culgaith. 24 present.

Group 1

1. Churches/chapels need to get together with others in their area to find out how each ticks, how they can work and plan together for the benefit of their community. Congregations need opportunities to meet and get to know each other
2. We need joint planning at church/chapel and mission community level.
3. Discussed St Peter's, Langwathby, idea of a good neighbour group to support shut-ins, single mothers, respond to hospitalisation, bereavement etc. Some members of the community who are not church involved will help with such initiatives. Can report back to clergy when necessary. An excellent idea but shouldn't this now be proposed/planned as a joint project?
4. Be alert to new housing by visiting new residents.
5. Special services/events are often attractive to the community, e.g., Kirkoswald Christmas Eve procession, Christingles, Remembrance, village harvests.
6. Be more proactive with publicity and use of Facebook, Twitter etc – leaflet villages for special events.
7. Success of Messy Church/Little Acorns and increasing involvement of parents.
8. The emphasis of our mission should move from church organisation to the community, not tied to church buildings and Sundays.

Group 2

1. Declining congregations make it difficult to maintain standards in services
2. Culgaith and Edenhall – support for church as community don't want them to close
3. Communication across MC vital
4. Peripatetic choir – singing an integral part of worship – spread the word about existing groups and move forward.
5. Representatives for each congregation meet to keep in touch on a regular basis
6. As baptisms, weddings and funerals are a key part of the rural church's function – how can we help families further?

Comment: How can buildings be best used? There is a 'Church in school' at Culgaith which works well.

There are 5,200 adults in the two Anglican Benefices for 12 churches plus the Methodist congregations with a further 7 buildings. In Keswick, there are not many fewer Anglicans for 1 church building.

Group 3

1. Lots of services going on e.g. Harvests and Remembrance, but think bigger, ask people to do things and think further ahead so you can invite people – then we will find hidden talent.
2. Pastoral visiting needs streamlining, building groups and enlarging the scope. Use the website.
3. The value of the personal invitation. Need equipping and encouraging to tell our stories

Comments:

1. Decline in attendance in Harvest Festival service causes fear and sadness, but good illustrations about personal invitation to farmers and the value of the rural chaplaincy.
2. Farmers always support each other at funerals.
3. Publicise the things that go well on the website social media etc
4. The value of Christmas and Easter journeys for 9 schools in the area. Helps children and adults to feel cared for, involved and wanted
5. Put the action plan on the website
6. 'Know your neighbour' – success of a drinks party given by someone new to the area
7. Illustration about a church that has a soft play centre which is enjoyed by families. Helpers chat to families and pick up on how Christians can help
8. There is a serious piece of work to be done to get alongside the community to find out about their communities 'Conversion' to the Christian faith has gone, but what is it to be replaced by?

Action: draw up an action plan and populate the website

www.eastofedenmc.org.uk

How about publishing Les's final prayer at Langwathby on the website for further use?

Feedback from the meeting at Ousby 2.11.16 representing Anglicans from Skirwith, Kirkland, Melmerby and Ousby. 22 present.

1. Very positive views expressed about being part of a MC. It creates an atmosphere of wider belonging.
2. Launch service much appreciated especially by the young family who came from Ousby.
3. Can we have more services like that? We find Gamblesby a very good venue.
4. The major discussion centred on how the "fell side" parishes could maintain and strengthen their witness in the community. The four parishes have committed themselves to working more closely together by sharing expertise and by having joint PCC meetings on a regular basis.
5. They hope that expertise can be shared throughout the MC and that we could develop a list of people's talents and look at how these could be best used across the whole area.

6. They think the ministers within the MC should be actively seen across the area and denominations and also be seen to share some services.
7. They agree that future staffing whereby the stipendiary Anglican would reside in KO is fair.

HA 3.11.16