

Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 25.7.17

Present : Revd Stephen Pye, Revd Les Wallace Bryan Gray (Chair) Helen Armstrong, Kathleen Doidge - Harrison, Jim Butterworth, Ray Wager

Minutes of last meeting:

Agreed

Arrangements following the retirement of Rev David Fowler

DF has prepared services for his churches until Christmas. It is anticipated that In the New Year, services across the Mission Community will be planned on a three monthly three monthly basis.

The focus of discussion was around a letter to the Archdeacon, Lee Townend written by Revd Stephen Pye and Bryan Gray outlining recommendations for the interregnum covering pastoral care, schools and young people, lay leadership, the Lay Pastor appointment at the Kirkoswald end of the MC, service patterns, weddings and communications.

A meeting will be held in August to formulate actions.

Church Wardens have also met with the Archdeacon. The Mission Community Plan was put forward to the standing committee of the Anglican Synod and was approved. It has also been approved by the Bishop's leadership team.

The outcome of this is that the new leader of the East of Eden Mission Community will live at Kirkoswald Vicarage and that there will be no stipendiary replacement otherwise.

A question and answer document on these matters has been produced by BG has been sent to the Archdeacon for approval.

The process for the appointment of the Mission Community Leader is now in place.

There will be representatives from the PCCs as well as ecumenical representation.

The appointment does not depend on the Deanery Plan.

The process will be mirrored for 2019 when LW retires.

BG will meet the Archdeacon on 26.7.17

Action: when approved, Q and A document and draft process will be circulated. BG

It is important that congregations understand that Les and Stephen are available for services during the period of interregnum.

Update on Penrith Mission Area

A similar appointment using the same process will also happen at Penrith as there is a vacancy at Christ Church.

The Mission Community in the west is more widely scattered. The latest proposal is that the Mission Community leader is based at Dacre.

Lay Leadership

A questionnaire has now been sent to the nineteen churches and chapels in the Mission Community requesting details of church stewards/ wardens and those equipped to lead services etc.

Judith Moore will collate the information which will form a database Stewards and wardens will meet the Lay Leadership group on 21.9.17.

The Archdeacon is keen to identify training needs across Mission Communities under the headings of 'team building, capacity building, building congregations, community development and training trainers'.

Training needs should become evident through the questionnaires.

Action: SP to invite Rev Nicki Pennington from Cumbria Christian Learning (CCL) to speak to the steering group about training.

Action: KDH to précis the Anglican document about growth of the church in rural areas.

Lay Pastor Appointment. This post funded by the Methodist Circuit is for 20 hrs per week for two years. Closing date is 28.7.17.

Communication continues to be area for improvement, Decision not to issue a newsletter at this point rather have 'news item' link on the front page of the website with direction to the minutes. A summary of the minutes could be written and circulated. It was felt better to have 19 link people (ambassadors) to disseminate information to congregations than have one newsletter.

Action JB and HA to work on this.
KDH to forward existing contact list to JB and HA

Also issue an offer on the website for members of MC steering group to visit PCCs and Church Councils on request. HA

Worship

Need to prepare for 3 month plan from Jan 2019

Buildings

Bishop Bob Hardy has prepared a report on of rural churches in Lincolnshire which has recommendations. Joined up thinking needed across the MC. Two strands identified – preservation of buildings and active worshipping.

SP reinforced he need not to lose sight of 'super church' idea. Change is down to us.

Action: contact John Slee to carry out an assessment of each building with SP and create a shortlist. National Churches Trust has funds.

The parish remains even if church building closes and is the responsibility of the local congregation.

Action: Arrange meetings over time in individual villages to discuss the way forward.

Website: Agreed to continue to include website address in all communication.

KDH has e mailed church wardens for Church biographical information on website to be checked and possibly changed to include life as the church community, not just the building.

Action: LW to speak to John Doidge-Harrison about a link to the website 'A Church Near You'.

Finance

General fund £1056.73

Messy Church £1138.00

Godly Play £999.04

Christmas and Easter Journeys £62.50

Judith James has to externally verified the accounts

AOB

Next MC service possibly to coincide with Veronica Priest's commissioning as Local Lay Minister (LLM) October 2017? No arrangements for this.

Next MC service – discussions about joining with the KO ecumenical Harvest Festival at Blunderfield West barn on 1st October. Further discussions by clergy agreed to wait until 2018 when a service could be planned into the overall MC schedule of services.

Zululand visit. Action: BG to ask those who have taken part to speak about the visit as a Mission Community event

Date of next steering group meeting: 5.9.17 4-6 pm at Langwathby Chapel