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**Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Annual Meeting
held at Great Salkeld VH on Monday, 17 September, 2018**

Forty people attended. The Revd Les Wallace welcomed everyone to the second Annual Meeting of the EEMC since its launch in September 2016 and reminded them of what has been happening in the past year. He mentioned the very well-attended Mothering Sunday service held in Langwathby VH - which was led by Archbishop John Sentamu - as part of the Moving Mountains Mission, and the successful summer activity sessions held during the school holidays in Kirkoswald. He concluded with the message that the EEMC should aim to continue to promote the Gospel in new and exciting ways.

Prayers and songs were then led by The Revds Mark Houston and Keith Speck.

Appointments

Canon Stephen Pye explained that he is Rector of the Cross Fell Benefice and, since 3 September, has also been curate of the KO benefice. The Revd Katharine Butterfield has a licence to be curate in the Cross Fell Benefice as well as being Vicar of the KO benefice. Mark Houston is serving his curacy under Stephen across the whole EEMC. Les Wallace is due to retire in 2019 and he expressed the hope that there can be a "like for like" replacement for him but, for this to happen, the vacancy needs to be flagged as "critical".

Schools

Stephen spoke about the ministry to schools in the EEMC. There are four Church of England primary schools and a combined primary and secondary non-church school at Alston. The ministers in the EEMC visit all the schools. Services have been held in Culgaith School and it is proposed that Langwathby and Lazonby will also host services. It is also proposed that chaplaincies be set up in the schools, wherever possible. Stephen emphasised that the EEMC is privileged in having so many clergy and that, with this privilege, comes the responsibility for nurturing the next generation.

Penrith Mission Area

Bryan Gray recapped on the development of the Mission Community since the initial meetings/consultations were held five years ago. There are three communities within the Penrith Mission Area – Penrith Town, the West, and the EEMC. Penrith Town is now ready to advertise for a Mission Community Leader. The West is less clear organisationally because of its size but this will be looked at again when the Penrith appointment has been made.

The principle of Mission Communities is collaborative working and becoming stronger together. The EEMC has seventeen chapels and churches and five houses. These are all generally in very good condition. Bryan told the meeting that John Slee, Gamblesby, has agreed to be a contact for sounding out ideas on building-related projects. John's contact details are on the EEMC website.

The Steering Group's terms of reference are also on the website and its lay members come up for re-election in September 2019.

Budgets

Jim Butterworth used a power point presentation to illustrate the work that he and Ray Wager have done. Jim stressed that this is work in progress.

Currently, the Anglican and Methodist churches have very different financial arrangements. Jim has collected data for 2017 from most of the churches to get an overall rough estimate of annual income and expenditure. He pointed out that, eventually, the Mission Community will be expected to be in charge of its own finances and will have an ecumenical budget. The Penrith Mission Area will be self-supporting, i.e. overall ministry costs will be covered by the income from churches and chapels.

From the information collected, the overall income of the EEMC was approximately £242,000. Expenditure on ministers – including housing, travel, pension contributions and training – was £140,000 and other expenditure in 2017 amounted to £132,000. This means that there was a deficit of £30,000. Some Anglican parishes have been eating into reserves and, long-term, this is unsustainable.

The EEMC has had a small amount of income, from grants and donations.

For 2019, the EEMC is part of a pilot scheme being run by the Diocese of Carlisle. Parish Offers will go to the Diocese as usual and parishes are being asked to offer a 3% increase on their 2018 offer.

Communications

Kathleen Doidge-Harrison reminded the meeting of the need to communicate information about events and new initiatives and of the need for repetition and personal invitations. From the floor, Peter Bowes requested a mailing list of people who would disseminate information and Kathleen agreed to compile a list. Also, from the floor, Hazel Bowes spoke of the success of Godly Play as an ecumenical venture and as a financially self-supporting one.

Service Plan

With nineteen places of worship, Stephen Pye said that there is clearly a need for an integrated plan. From October, services throughout the EEMC will be listed in all local church publications as well as on the website and, from January 2019, there will be an integrated worship plan. He pointed out that people may need to move around between places of worship but that there will be different types of service on offer.

Lay Leadership

Peter Bowes told the meeting that local preachers and lay leaders have constituted a code of practices and procedures and that this has been referred to the Steering Group for approval.

A Discipling Presence

Les Wallace told everyone to look out for this course, which is particularly relevant to rural communities. It will start in the New Year.

Katharine Butterfield, the new joint Mission Community leader with Les Wallace, thanked everyone for the welcome extended to her. She spoke about her passion for equipping people to use their different talents and skills on our shared journey to becoming more Christ-like, describing this as “growing other people into leadership”. Katharine spoke of the need for a prayerful discerning process in determining a vision for the future of the EEMC.

The meeting concluded with a blessing from Canon Stephen.