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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 15/01/2019

Present : Revd Katharine Butterfield, Jim Butterworth, Kathleen Doidge-Harrison, Bryan Gray (Chair), Revd Stephen Pye, John Slee, Ray Wager, Revd Les Wallace

Apologies: Helen Armstrong

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2018 were agreed.

1. Buildings Review

Prior to the meeting, John Slee, in his capacity as Business Advisor to the EEMC had circulated a document outlining a model for helping congregations to review their church buildings and the current and future use of those buildings. With the approval of churchwardens and chapel stewards and with co-operation from them or a nominated representative, John would guide them through the review process. It was noted that the Methodist Circuit Spring Event has the theme of Past, Present and Future which fits in well with the idea of looking in some detail at each place of worship.

Action: John to prepare a briefing document for PCCs and Church Councils. Clergy team to introduce the topic with PCC and Church Council members when the opportunity arises.

Church treasurers will also be informed of the proposed review process at a meeting to be held on Tuesday, 26 February, at 7.30pm, at Langwathby Methodist Chapel.

2. Finances

A meeting for church treasurers was held on 11 December but not all churches were represented. A further meeting will be held (see above).

Action: BG to circulate to all treasurers a summary of the points discussed at the 11 December meeting and to notify them of the February meeting.

Ray Wager gave a Finance Report which included the following figures:

<i>General Fund</i>	1206.55
<i>Messy Church</i>	521.90
<i>Godly Play</i>	1468.68
<i>Xmas/Easter Journey</i>	124.06
<i>Children & Youth</i>	1.21
<i>Dementia Project</i>	8.50
TOTAL	3330.90

It was agreed to make a donation to the choir to set them off but that, in future, the EEMC choir will need to be self-funding.

3. Future Events

- *Day of Refreshment & Reflection*, Friday, 15 March 2019: KB and KDH will meet Bishop James Bell in February to finalise details of the day.
- *Lent Study Group* – Alston plus two other locations across the EEMC on Tuesday evenings.

Action: planning by KB, SP and LW

- *A dementia awareness day*, Saturday, 2 March 2019, in Langwathby VH
- *Holy Week* **Action: Planning by SP and KB**

4. Communication

The sample notice for display in churches is still a work in progress.

John stressed the importance of keeping the website up-to-date and of asking Avril to take down any outdated items. It was thought that it would be very useful to have someone to keep an eye on the website – one person from the Anglican congregations and one from the Methodists.

Action: SP to approach Mark Houston about being the Anglican rep.

5. Penrith Mission Area

Bryan reported that an interview has been arranged for Friday, 18 January, for the candidate for the post of PMA leader. There will be an ecumenical interview panel.

6. Appointments

Colin Marchment has accepted the post of Superintendent Presbyterian to succeed Les when he retires in 2019. There will be a service of welcome for Colin on Saturday, 7 September, at 7 pm at a venue to be announced.

7. Back Office

Action: Everyone to think about what tasks could be handed over and ideas to be discussed at a future meeting.

8. EEMC Annual Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday, 17 September, at 7 pm, at Langwathby Methodist Chapel.

9. Steering Group Membership

Jim is stepping down from the Steering Group to give more attention to the work of the EEMC in Renwick, and to allow a phased changeover in lay membership of the SG. Kathleen will step down in September. Under the Steering Group constitution, an election will be held to find new members.

Action: Everyone to look out for potential candidates.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 19 March, 4pm, at Langwathby Methodist Church.