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Minutes of the East of Eden Mission Community Steering Group Meeting 27/11/2018

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

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2018 were agreed.

1. Finances

Stephen gave the estimated total income for the parishes of Edenhall, Kirkland and Melmerby as £16,000. Jim will add this to the spreadsheet showing the income and expenditure throughout the EEMC. *An Introduction to Anglican/Methodist finances and implications for Mission Communities* has been circulated to treasurers in advance of their meeting at Gamblesby on 11 December. At the meeting, an overall summary of income and expenditure will be presented and a consultative approach will be taken, asking for an expression of views on working together in the EEMC.

The current balance in the EEMC account is £665.62. The EEMC has no on-going source of income. Ainstable Methodist Church has made a grant of £500. It was suggested that each church community should be asked to contribute £50 per annum towards EEMC joint expenditure, e.g. website maintenance.

Other account balances are:

Godly Play	£1473.26
Messy Church	£383
Christmas/Easter Journey	£124.06
Holiday Club	£1.21 (expenditure is met by charging for refreshments)

2. Worship Plan

Les circulated a partial mock-up of an A3 leaflet for the three-months January to March 2019 – *Programme of Sunday Worship* - which will show service times and locations throughout the whole EEMC. It incorporates a directory of contacts – *Church Officers and Leaders of Worship* – and will include a *Dates for your Diary* section for non-church events such as Tea Break, Café Church and Messy Church. The estimated cost of 500 leaflets, printed by the Herald, is under £70. They should be ready for distribution from 12 December.

Action: SP to publicise the introduction of the three-month plan and leaflet. LW to add a note that this is “work in progress”. BG to draft a communication to the diocese to announce the achievement of an overall plan for worship in the EEMC.

3. Future Events

Day of Refreshment & Reflection, 15 March 2019: KB and KDH will meet Bishop James Bell in February to finalise details of the day.

Action: KDH - The date and location to be advertised in February publications

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, 2 March 2019, in Langwathby VH

Lent Lunches

Action: KB to find a co-ordinator to take over from Lydia Gray, who will pass on contact details of previous years' hosts.

A *Mothering Sunday* service for the EEMC will be held at Melmerby at 10am on Sunday, 31 March.

There was good feedback following *Bible Month*, though the feeling seemed to be that it should be kept to Sundays. It was suggested, as an alternative, that *Food for Thought* might have a mid-week bible study.

Stephen proposed that in *Holy Week* there should be an EEMC service each evening but not always in the same location.

Action: SP to discuss at a future staff meeting.

4. Buildings

Stephen said that it is important for each church to have its own vision for the future and that this needs very careful thought. John Slee has agreed to attend the next Steering Group meeting to talk about how to help churches develop their vision.

5. Communication

Ministers have identified lead people for each church and their names and telephone numbers will be listed in the quarterly worship plan mentioned above. Helen has been given the names, phone numbers and photographs she needs and is working on a sample notice for display in churches. Katharine will continue to work on a plan for a weekly newssheet. It was thought that Avril could co-ordinate this but that one person from each church would need to be responsible for passing on the relevant information to her.

6. Appointments

Colin Marchant has accepted the post of Superintendent Presbyter to succeed Les when he retires in 2019.

The Diocesan Synod has approved the proposal to make an appointment to the Penrith Mission Community/Mission Area. The person appointed will have a brief to work out the best arrangements for the West. Synod agreed that two House for Duty appointments may also be made in the West.

7. Annual Meeting

Helen suggested that, at the Annual Meeting, there should be an update and brief report to show the breadth of activities taking place within the EEMC churches, along the lines of the Plan for Mission drawn up by the KO & Alston Moor Methodist Circuit which Helen re-circulated.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 15 January, 4pm, at Langwathby Methodist Church.