Grasmoor Mission Community

Memo of GMC Leadership Group meeting
Saturday 8th March 2025 (0900-1100)

Present: Audrey Albon (AA), Nick Baker (NB), Michael Bonner (MB), Christina Brentnall (CB), Catherine Chambers (CCha), Jane Charman (JC), Clare Chittenden (CChi), Nick Cole (NC), Sue Cole (SC), Brian Furness (BF), David Hallewell (DH), Joan Ingrams (JI), Kris Longshaw (KL), Roger Pritchett (RP), Rosemary Riley (RR), Barbara Robinson (BR), Margaret Robinson (MR), Alistair Smeaton (AS), Lois Sparling (LS), Andrea Ward (AW), Pete Ward (PW), Fiona Weakley (FW)

1. **Two New Ministries:**
   We welcomed Archdeacon Stewart Fyfe to license Lois Sparling as our new Community Chaplain and Commission Nick Cole for the Ministry of an Anna Chaplain.

   Following the licencing and service of worship we enjoyed refreshments after which guests departed, and we settled into our main meeting

2. **Apologies:** Jan Collins Webb (JCW), Eleanor Ella (EE), John Freeman (JF), Deborah Hoddinott (DH), Stuart Hoddinott (SH), Morna McDowell (MM), Samm Morris (SM), Kath Palmer (CP), Steve Weston (SW)

3. **Memo of September 2024 meeting – approval for publication**

The memo from the last meeting was agreed as an accurate record and approved to be made public on the GMC website.

4. **Matters arising**

Working with the Garden Planner

AS said that he had taken this to the Whitehaven area and was pleased to report that it had been well received and had been a good experience. It was agreed that this should be looked at again at a future meeting.

JC has received a booklet "What is the Role of a Mission Community Leader". This too will be brought to a future meeting.

5. Around the churches – a whistlestop tour

Brigham Methodists

- Have gained their ECO Silver Award.
- The proposed safer access project is going ahead.
- A Lent study group is formed and it is hoped to lead to a regular Thursday group.
- Feeling energised and looking to do some different events.
- Regretfully the Brigham Bunnies which has been going for 25 years, has finished due to a lack of young children in the area.

Lorton Street

- The Mission Plan is ongoing.
- There is a feasibility study due to be completed within the next month to redevelop the inside of the building.
- Car park charges will come into operation next month although groups who use the building will need to register to be exempt of charges.

Poiema

- 16 people have been on residential breaks, enjoying the solitude within the Poiema community. This has been encouraging.
- Day retreats are being organised for Easter as well as a quiet days, including one with Kay Patterson.

St Cuthberts, Lorton

- The quinquennial report has been received and is being digested prior to the visitation from the Archdeacon.
- The Yew Tree Hall is undergoing improvements for access and the church is looking into offering temporary accommodation for groups while it is closed.

Christ Church Great Broughton

- Pleased with the commission of Nick to Anna Chaplaincy.
- Café Church is going well.
- Hoping to re-establish a Youth Church in the near future and John Freeman is being asked for help.

St Bridget's, Brigham

- Building work is ongoing but has been held up by inclement weather.
- Many people are visiting to see the new ceiling and building generally.
- Joining with Brigham Methodists on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Buttermere

- A remembrance service has been held to commemorate the eight airmen who crashed on Red Pike 80 years ago.
- Water has got into the electrics and the organ no longer works. The whole church requires re-wiring.

Loweswater

- The re-tiling of the vestry roof is completed.

St Bridget's Bridekirk

- ECO Silver Award gained.
- Looking for governance of church, particularly for safeguarding,
- Community outreach ongoing including Baby Club and Monday Group,
- Schools are benefiting from all churches joining in with assemblies etc.

St Philips

- Sunday services times are to change from 11am to 10am in April.
- Working with Paddle School,

All Saints

- The new organ is in place,
- Installation of toilets is progressing,
- A major water leak has occurred (saving money while it is awaiting repair!),
- Only one boiler is running as a fan needs replacing,
- Using the curtained off Lady Chapel during the winter months is working well although still waiting for a new sound system to be installed and the door curtains to go up,
- Numbers appear to be increasing, albeit slowly,
- We look forward to the VE Day anniversary service,

Christ Church Cockermouth

- ECO Silver Award gained,
- Sam Green is taking over from Terry Peate as PSO,
- The Leadership Team is looking at ways to support Christina, Lois with Community engagement and also are heartened by Nick's new ministry.

URC

- Looking forward to celebrating the 375th anniversary this year.
- Another volunteer is needed for the Monday morning Toddler Group.
- The building is not in poor condition, but users of the building have convened a meeting to look at ways to help with the problems as community partnership.

6. Over to Lois

Lois led us in a mini-listening exercise to get us all thinking about what's going on/not going on in our communities outside church and how we might discern what God is already doing and what God wants us to do in those places. There are no right or wrong answers. Lois isn't asking for reports back, but this will not be the last word on anything as we will have lots of opportunities to speak with Lois over the next few weeks and months - this is just the starting point.

We were asked to sit next to someone who was not in our own church and to take a moment to think of the community other than the church that we are members of, to discuss the questions, and to put our thoughts on a post-it notes.

Question 1: note down one thing that's going on in your community at the moment that you would like to celebrate. Something that is nothing to do with church but is clearly of God. Something good helping people live life to the full
Question 2: note down one aspect of that community, again nothing to do with church but something that saddens you, that you lament, that is limiting people's lives that you would like to change.

Question 3: take a couple of minutes on your own to think of a group or an individual in your community (unconnected with church) who would like to have their answers to these questions heard and note down who they are.

7. Date of next meeting
Saturday 14th June 2025. Venue to be confirmed.

8. Closing prayer
Nick Baker closed the meeting in prayer.