Grasmoor Mission Community

Memo of GMC Leadership Group Meeting
Saturday 14th June 2025, Brigham Methodist Church

Present: Nick Baker, Michael Bonner, Christina Brentnall, Catherine Chambers, Jane Charman, Clare Chittenden Laura Connolly, Eleanor Ella, Brian Furness, Peta Leigh, Kris Longshaw, Samm Morris, Barbara Robinson, Margaret Robinson, Alistair Smeaton, Lois Sparling, Andrea Ward, Fiona Weakley

Apologies:
Audrey Albon, Gareth Browning, Nick Cole, Sue Cole, Gill Davidson, Chris Haslam, Deborah Hoddinott, Stuart Hoddinott, Susan Holmes, Wendy Sanders, Sue Shaw

Bible study and opening prayer
Alistair Smeaton led the opening devotions on the theme 'Know that the Lord is good' from Psalm 100.

Memo of March meeting
Approved for publication on the GMC website.

Matters arising
Services take place on first and third Sundays at Saint Bridget's Brigham and the congregation joins with the Methodist Church on other Sundays
The Poiema residential retreat with Kate Patterson has been postponed
URC 'there are several challenges'

Around the churches

Brigham Methodist Church
There will be an outdoor service on 29th June in the garden with bacon butties and a collection for the work of the agricultural chaplaincy. It was noted this clashed with the benefice service. This raised a question as to how we share dates – can the skeleton rota be shared? The World Day of Prayer service took place at Christ Church at Great Broughton led by Sue and Nick. How do we go about planning a united service on the 5th service if there is a united service? The church will be making changes to the entrance. It was noted there will be a Cumbria circuit service at Penrith on the 31st August but there will also be a service at Saint Bridget's that morning.

Dean
Services now take place at 10 am every Sunday as follows: first Sunday BCP Holy Communion, fourth Sunday Common Worship Holy Communion. The other two Sundays are services of the word, one of which is lay led and one Northumbrian Celtic. A fantastic Pentecost service with the top class from Dean school was enjoyed.

Brigham St Bridget's
Alterations are ongoing and almost finished, the kitchen should be finished in the next couple of months. At the moment worship takes place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. We hope to hold a 'restoration complete service' in due course. The church hosted the local school for 'Experience Baptism'.

Mosser
This continues to go from strength to strength with a good link with the school. Experience Pentecost took place with 15 children from Year 5 with a bus paid for by Mosser PCC. A church school service of the word takes place 6 times a year inviting a particular year group on each occasion – this is included in the register of services.

Clifton
Discussion has taken place about how we might work together in Clifton. From September services will take place every week in Clifton alternating between Saint Luke's and Great Clifton Methodists. It was noted that Clifton looks towards Workington but no incumbent has been appointed for Workington. The churches work together with the youth group at Great Clifton Methodist on Fridays and we noted work in the care home and community and school.

Loweswater and Buttermere
Buttermere is still waiting for electrics for the organ not the whole church.
Loweswater – the churchyard wall is beautifully repaired, some minor painting to be done. Lots of weddings in both churches.
Services: there is an alternating pattern of Holy Communion services with Lorton Church. Matins is once every two months. There was a Bluebell Service in May which went very well with over 150 people – information on the God for All website.

Poiema
Continuing to run residential and day retreats including a gathering of northern young leaders in May. They are preparing for a 5 day silent retreat on the 30th June. The Buttermere Camino retreat weekend is on 26th July. The outside of the house is to be decorated by the end of June which will complete the diocesan work.

Lorton
The QI inspection revealed a problem with the tower. The energy footprint toolkit has not yet been completed – Jane has a list. It was noted that Rosemary would be invited to lead a conversation on the toolkit at the next meeting.

All Saints
At All Saints a bit of joy from 2 weddings that had taken place in May and one in June. Growing numbers of All Saints kids. Consistent numbers at Sunday services.
Oasis 1st Sundays at 6.00 continues in the Celtic tradition with Holy Communion
Toilets still not started, water leak still not fixed.

Christ Church Great Broughton
2nd and 4th Sundays are Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday is Café Church. Nick and Sue were priested on 28th June.

Bridekirk
The school returned for the first time since the pandemic to enjoy Experience (after) Easter. It involved the whole school looking at Ascension and Pentecost. A pet service is being planned for the autumn. The LED lighting is being replaced.

Christ Church
Feeling the chill now that the 'thermal tent' has come down. A recent growth in numbers was noted with c 140 in the service. Messy Church on second Sundays. Church succession planning is being undertaken with looking at how more people might be involved.

Cockermouth Methodists
A feasibility study is being undertaken with a view to redeveloping the sanctuary. A new bookings secretary is in place. The pre-school continues to thrive and is focussing more on children with special needs.

URC
The funeral of Revd Jim Martin was noted. The funeral took place at Lorton Street. Jim had worked ecumenically since arriving in Cockermouth in 1982 and has been part of the Christian community in Cockermouth for 42 years. With regards the building some challenges continue but a 'Friends of Cockermouth URC' has been formed to help with this. Gently growing numbers. It was noted a county wide audit of buildings took place in 2014 under the auspices of the Churches Trust for Cumbria but that this went bust.

Mission Communities
A discussion in small groups took place using the leaflet 'What is the role of a mission community leader?' In 2011 the God For All strategy noted that it was to grow disciples but in the leaflet mission comes in the final paragraph. Question was raised as to who is 'our' in the context of 'our commitment to you'. Reference was made to discern and equip a shepherd. Overall the emphasis is on one person rather than a team whether that is ordained or not. Where there isn't an ordained person what does it look like to train and equip? We asked the question: what do we do now recognising we are the mission community leaders? How do we pray as a mission community?

Community Chaplain slot

Owing to the constraints of time Lois gave a brief overview of the work that she has been engaged with. This is involving meeting and listening to people and building relationships to discern needs. How can we be better connected? How can we be more aware of what's going on? Can we offer more for not much more effort? We can't model community and make change without knowing each other better. The website is one tool - we need to include local contact details, we are invited to bookmark the Grasmoor Mission Community page. It was also highlighted there is a Facebook page for the GMC which can also be accessed via the website. There is the 'Staying Connected' newsletter we're starting to use as a platform as to how we can help. Transport was noted as a huge issue, mental health, support for farmers, divided communities with many barriers - can we be bridge builders? Lois shared the booklet 'Rustic Rants' which is a collection of reflections from the South Lakes Poverty Truth Commission.

Ministry Offer

We refreshed our memories about how the Offer works and how each church contributes to it. The strategy regarding work force planning was explained. A letter is about to go to treasurers so that each DCC and PCC can make a decision.

Future events and activities

Gathering Day Saturday 20th of September 0915-1300 Christchurch, Cockermouth led by Revd Professor David Wilkinson on the theme 'Towards a Christian Perspective on Artificial Intelligence'. Posters and fliers available, open to all.

Concert to support the fundraising of Brigham Methodist Church will be on the evening of Saturday 20th September.

AOB

A reminder was given about the importance of all keeping their safeguarding training up to date.

Date of next meeting

Saturday 1st November.