



**CfM meeting 23 April 2015**

**Notes from Committee for Ministry Meeting**

**19:30 Thursday, 23 April 2015**

'Congo' Church House, Daresbury, WA4 4GE

**Apologies:** Ann Barlow, Andrew Lythall, Ian Parkinson, Paul Smith, Julie Withers. Gary O'Neill, Magdalen Smith.

**Attendance:** Mike Gilbertson; Ruth Ackroyd, David Blackmore, Isobel Burnley, David Felix, James Hughes, Joe Kennedy, Marian Needham. Also in attendance Christopher Burkett (DofM) and Jane Hood (minute secretary), David Herbert, Liz Shercliff.

- 1 Opening worship led by James Hughes
- 2 Apologies as above
- 3 Notes of meeting held 22 January. No comments.
- 4 Matters arising (not dealt with elsewhere)
  - 6.2 (of 22 January 2015) Maureen Pickering finishing as PW Training Officer with effect from the end of the current academic year. She is doing her PhD on Thomas Merton. A replacement will be sought and the post advertised on the diocesan website.
  - 6.7 First 'Welcome to Church House' has taken place. The old system of induction days was not viable. Welcome days to be held more frequently with fewer attendees.
  - 6.8 Lent notes were accessed by more than 50 people per day (Facebook and website, 200 for Easter Day). The images drew people in. We are always looking for new images and would appreciate submissions. Loveday Alexander may be persuaded to do it again. Queries raised: (a) Can the notes be available for churches to use beyond the webpage? (b) the possibility of a list of churches on Twitter to subscribe to a list that would be generated by Twitter users. University of Chester computer science students are always looking for projects. MG to take this to the Church House Communications Group.
- 7 Bible Year project being taken forward slowly. Suggested title is *The Word of The Lord* which hasn't met with any great enthusiasm. Nothing else to report but the group will be meeting again. There are the issues of ensuring the scope is neither too limited nor too wide. The launch will be September 2016 with a trail at the clergy conference. Resources can be made available at the book store at the conference. The Bible Year will also capture the 2017 lay conference. David Lamb intends to do some research on Bible reading habits in the diocese and hopes to complete this before the Bible Year launch.

If anyone has a better idea for the title for the Bible Year project, please let CB know.

## 5 Major discussion of national task group reports

- 5.1 *Resourcing Ministerial Education* (see notes on purple handout). *Aims*: younger, more diversity, wider gifts, more candidates (means increase in training nos in 2017). Currently approx. 60 children / youth workers are paid. Don't have to be included in synodical structure unless they are licensed. Diocese no longer advertises jobs on the website that don't pay the living wage. Parish administrator's network: meets twice a year, 50-60 in number. Also Youth workers' network. We expect wider ministry from our Readers than many other places. Locally commissioned worship leaders instead of Readers not a path suggested here. Can we be more proactive without more resources? Concern expressed over streamlining the discernment process. It's not a failure if it takes over a year. Need to consider if it is affordable to continue funding in the same way. Get rid of silo thinking. There will be an increase in numbers of individual training programmes.
- 5.2 *Developing Discipleship* questionnaire responses scored and discussed. The Catechism to be overseen by House of Bishops. Decide as a diocese what to do about the ten marks of discipleship.
- 5.3 Plans for annual conference on 19 November (day at Foxhill).  
Suggestions:
- Discipleship.
  - Catechism.
  - Developing discipleship. Need to do this to strengthen growth in parishes.
  - Might Prof Elaine Graham be interested?
  - Outside speaker discussing one or two of the above papers. Give a clear brief and set homework as preparation for the day.

6 Scope of CfM's work – for discussion at the next meeting.

7 Social evening – suggestions to follow.

8 AOB

8.1 Poetry day on 8 June at Chester Cathedral.

8.2 Next meeting is Tuesday, 29 September. MG is on Sabbatical. David Blackmore will chair the meeting.

9 Meeting ended with prayer led by Mike Gilbertson.

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### Future Meetings

- 7 July 2015, CfM social evening, time and venue to be confirmed
- 29 September 2015, 19:30, Melanesia.
- 19 November 2015, CfM Annual Conference, 09:30 – 15:30, Foxhill

### 2016 Dates

#### Committee Meetings; all Congo; 7.30pm to 9.30pm

- Thursday, 14 January 2016
- Thursday, 28 April 2016

- Tuesday, 27 September 2016

**Social Evening**

- Wednesday, 13 July 2016

**CfM Annual Conference**

- Tuesday, 8 November 2016. Foxhill has availability so will make provisional booking