

Committee for Ministry Meeting
19:30 Thursday, 14 January 2016
Congo Church House, Daresbury, WA4 4GE

Committee attendance: *Ven Mike Gilbertson, David Blackmore, George Crowder, James Durbin, David Felix, James Hughes, Joe Kennedy, Julie Withers.*

CfM officers attending: *Peter Mackriell (DoS PWs), Gary O'Neill (DoS Ords), John Knowles (Warden of Readers), Vivien Gisby (Warden of PWs), David Lamb (Bible Year), Ann Barlow (Ketso report), Christopher Burkett (DofM) and Jane Hood (minute secretary).*

1. Opening worship led by Christopher Burkett
2. Apologies: Ruth Ackroyd, David Felix, Elaine Graham, Liz Shercliff, Magdalen Smith
3. Welcome of new members
4. **Notes of meeting held 29 September** (paper on website). Notes accepted as record of the meeting.
5. **Matters arising** (not dealt with elsewhere).
 - 5.1 **Revalidation.** This happens every three or five years for our teaching courses accredited by the University of Chester (The partnership renewal review was successfully completed in November). The revalidation of programmes event was on Tuesday – thanks to those who completed paperwork in CPBs absence. Programme leaders, students and graduates took part. Our programmes were recommended for revalidation conditional upon four amendments and seven recommendations for consideration. We were commended for three areas of practice. Full documentation will be available to committee members when the final written report is received. The FdA degree previously part of All Saints provision is now with us and was part of the revalidation. The assessment in the Cert HE programme is to be revised from a Pass / Fail to a percentage mark so that modules taught over two year cycle can demonstrate students' progress over the course.
6. **RME (Resourcing Ministerial Education)**
 - 6.1 To consider current national RME proposals and what they mean for us, especially regarding IME Phase 1, vocations and training etc. Earlier version looked at in the spring meeting. Things have changed from those we were originally shown. Several previously key aspects have now disappeared, e.g. selection of over 50 candidates will not now be done locally. Age bands have been introduced: e.g. under 30s funding would cover cost of three year residential course, whereas funding for older candidates will not. Target remains 50% increase in those training for stipendiary ministry. Proposals going back to GS in February. Just what the consequences will be for us not yet clear. How proposed 4 bands for training funds were arrived at is unclear – previously when three were proposed we were told the central band was simply the balancing figure in the calculations. Consequences need to be monitored so that people are not discriminated against. The billing and disbursement will now go through the diocese. First proposals were suggestive of more flexibility in the fees and a reduction of restrictions; ideas we were sympathetic to. These things appear to have been rolled back on. Parameters to be established for ring-fencing of training money.

6.2 In light of the increasing numbers of ordinands for stipendiary ministry, should the diocese continue to offer a stipendiary curacy for all its own candidates? +Peter interested in our views on this. By 2018 likely number of stipendiary curates to be ordained will be 18, which is a substantial increase on what is currently being budget for. Should more money be made available? Should we become an exporting diocese? – a major culture shift for this diocese. Might diocese bid for Church Commissioners mission funding for some of these posts? Very few currently sponsored for training from this diocese end up going to other dioceses. How many parishes are suitable as training parishes? Curate housing provision costs can be a problem, especially in UPA parishes. Might diocesan benefice housing be utilised, at least on occasions? How many stipendiaries are nearing retirement age? Danger that more of those ‘younger’ in Ministry going to other dioceses might mean we end up with fewer stipendiary clergy than needed. Perhaps we should be supporting increased numbers for the benefit of the wider church? Topics under 6.1 and 6.2 don’t go together easily – increasing Ordinands and curbing costs. Given the choice would rather train the larger number with a flexible view to deployment. A few places coming up where curates could be employed in ways they haven’t been previously.

- Re-visiting the idea of asking some wealthier parishes to contribute towards the training costs of curates deployed with them;
- Judicious use of appointing curates-in-charge to vacant parishes.

7. **Developing Discipleship.** Ann Barlow explained how the Ketso process worked and the colour-codes. A lot of thoughts were coming out. Reporting on her conclusions from the process, AB found it interesting that in the area of formation we do a lot because we have a lot of courses, eg FfM, Alpha, Pilgrim, whereas worship and spirituality receives much less attention. What else could we do? New ideas need to be about the things we are not doing much of, e.g. Retreats, big festivals, working on enabling people to pray and worship. These are the ideas that were wanted to be taken to the CfM. AB can forward raw data. AB enjoyed watching the process. Would be interesting to do a similar process with a lay group to see whether their thoughts are similar. To develop discipleship more informal processes are required – DAP – discipleship action plan. Comments: interesting dynamic due to lack of laity. looking at diocesan assets and thinking about new ways to use these assets. Could this be done at the lay conference? The decision making process was very quick and there was no time for conversations. Ketso intention is to get at the creative ideas. The discussion can follow on from the priorities. More time to the planning process. Or return to the process on a separate occasion. Where should we take this? Lay conference – put in a bid for it to be part of this? Development of a new catechism? Who’s doing what? Where does it go with us as a committee? CfM not good at initiating and sustaining initiatives. Elaine Graham’s opinion would be interesting. MG will talk to lay conference committee. Ask for volunteers via deaneries.

8. **Bible Literacy Year.** Title is now titled YBible (Year of the Bible). There will be a trail at Swanwick in June; followed by the launch at the cathedral in September (Thursday, 15 September, 7.30pm) with an exhibition of resources and speaker. Suggestions for Menu of resources available for people to use; enabling people to be more attentive to biblical texts; reading the Bible in public, materials on website and booklet. Reading the Bible in pairs. Sharing good practice.

9. **St Mellitus building proposal.** MG's email. Suggested that a long-term loan might be helpful. This is a decision for Bishop's Council and the Finance Committee. How does this fit with our diocese and ASCMM? ASCCM part-time and non-residential; St Mellitus is non-residential, full-time training (mixed mode); both doing well and with increasing numbers of students. The committee was positive towards the loan idea. The future lies in partnership working.
10. **Any other business** – none taken.
11. The meeting closed with prayer

2016 Meetings

Committee Meetings; 19:30 to 21:30 Congo, Church House;

- Thursday, 28 April 2016
- Tuesday, 27 September 2016

CfM Officers Meetings; 10:00 to 13:00; Congo, Church House

- Tuesday, 3 May 2016
- Thursday, 29 September 2016

Social Evening

- Wednesday, 13 July 2016

CfM Annual Conference

- Tuesday, 8 November 2016, 09:30 – 15:30, Foxhill