

**Notes from Committee for Ministry Meeting  
19:30 Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015**

*'Melanesia' Church House, Daresbury, WA4 4GE*

**Apologies:** Ann Barlow, Isobel Burnley, Ian Parkinson, Paul Smith

**Attendance:** Mike Gilbertson; Ruth Ackroyd, David Blackmore, David Felix, James Hughes, Joe Kennedy, Andrew Lythall, Marian Needham, Julie Withers  
also in attendance Christopher Burkett (DofM) and Jane Hood (minute secretary).

1. Prayers were led by Marian Needham
2. Apologies as above
3. Notes of meeting held 23 September were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters arising** (not dealt with elsewhere)
  7. (of 23 Sept 2014) Experiences of Ministry  
Relevant associated task group reports now published, Resourcing Ministerial Education is available at [www.churchofengland.org/rmereport](http://www.churchofengland.org/rmereport) There is also a paper on discipleship which is relevant to CfM. Following General Synod in February these will be discussed at the April meeting.
5. New officers and appointees:
  - (i) Trustees for All Saints CMM – new chair: David Felix; new diocesan trustee: Lore Chumbley (the other diocesan trustee is Christopher Burkett).
  - (ii) Two new Young Vocations Officers: Calum Piper and Helena Mayles
  - (iii) New Bishop's Adviser for MDR: Gary O'Neill.
6. **Work in progress**
  - 6.1 FfM 2014-15. 39 students: fewer than last year on the accredited route. With effect from December Dave Mock has been leading the Macclesfield group.
  - 6.2 Cert HE, Maureen Pickering [Pastoral Worker Training Officer] very enthusiastic about progress of students on the Cert HE. Practical Theology Diplomas (8), BTh (3). Courses are running well. Three on the BTh programme are newly ordained women. The programme is being adapted for Readers who may wish to take this route; Liz Shercliff is working on this with the University of Chester. From September 2015 an FfM equivalent sign language programme will be running: this will be on our programme but run by our partner.
  - 6.3 Headway. This is the leadership course which has been remodelled by David Herbert, John Lees and Helen Scarisbrick. The internet generation of ideas has taken off. The fact that the course members are mostly female has not been seen as an issue.
  - 6.4 Spirituality Graham Green (officer for Prayer and Christian Spirituality) has established a pattern of training. A day with Nick Helm was well-received.

Website has been updated to reflect new issues. New training course being organised which will start in September 2015.

- 6.5 Prayer Cycle: always looking for contributions. Circulation now c1400.
- 6.6 First Base, a joint venture with the dioceses of Liverpool and Manchester offers three days a year for those beginning their first incumbency. Diocese of Chester currently hosting and funding this programme (taken in turns). Most recent session this month attended by 20+
- 6.7 Welcome to Church House. New initiative led by Jane Knight and David Herbert: a more informal introduction for those who are new to the diocese or in their first incumbency. A two-hour introductory session to be offered four times per year.
- 6.8 Walk with Jesus Lent notes by Loveday Alexander's for Lent will be published on the website.
- 6.9 David Herbert and the Parish Development Team are offering those in their first incumbencies a mentor from another deanery to give support and bounce ideas off.
- 6.10 Post-curacy accredited learning: something to be planned for 2016 budget however there is more work to be done on this. New funding can be sought or budget heads changed.

## 7. **Biblical Literacy Year**

The idea has now been to Bishop's Staff for an initial discussion. CPB and MG anticipate the launch will be in summer 2016 and run through an academic year. Looking for events, lectures with high profile speakers and from ground floor up to encourage daily engagement. CPB discussed the idea with Loveday Alexander and aiming towards a dedicated website, updated daily with a launch at the 2016 clergy conference. Loveday has volunteered to be part of a brainstorming group. One firm idea is producing a single verse meditation similar to the Cycle of Prayer – but thicker – of 52 meditations: will look for high-profile volunteers to write these. Priority should be encouraging engagement with the Bible for oral learners. The Communications group is keen for a logo to be used by all diocesan departments. A creative push is needed plus asking David Bell and Mark Montgomery to be involved: looking at engaging with children and parents; eg parents reading Bible stories to children (Look at resources produced by Jane Brooke). Could be included in GAP 4 parish health checks. Loveday suggested looking ahead at what happens after the Bible literacy year. Other suggestions: podcasts, videocasts etc; reading out loud together. Joe Kennedy, James Hughes and David Blackmore volunteered to be part of the planning group. Need to advise other departments and encourage their input. Suggestions for a better, snappier title welcomed.

## 8. **Structuring CfM meetings**

Limitation of officers and committee only being able to discuss together at the social evening and annual conference was discussed. MG met all the officers individually and all said they would like to see more of the committee. One way forward is to invite two officers to a committee meeting if an agenda item is

pertinent to their role. This will be discussed further following the officers meeting on 28 January. In future all meeting notes will be posted on the CfM pages on the diocesan website.

9. **CfM Day Conference (19 Nov)** – This will be discussed at the April meeting following Synod discussions of the task group reports. A sub group will be set up to organise the day.

10. **Any other business** there was no other business.

11. The meeting ended with prayer led by Ruth Ackroyd.

**Next meeting:**

Thursday, 23 April 2015, 7.30pm, Congo, Church House