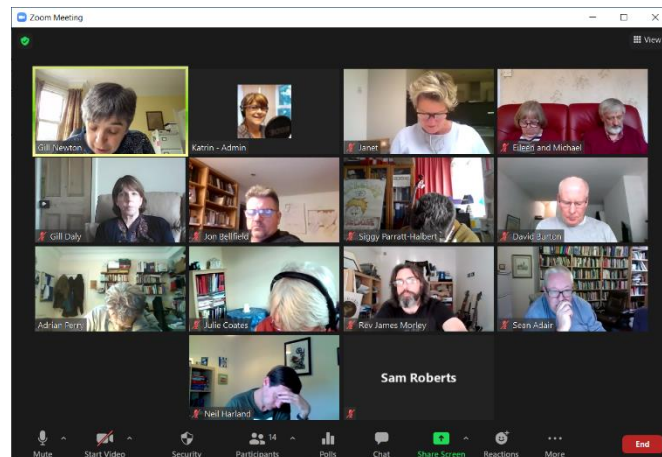


Sheffield Methodist District Leadership Team Meeting on 7 July at 6:30 pm via ZOOM

Present

Gill Newton; Katrin Hackett; Jon Bellfield; Janet Hampshire; Gill Daly; Siggy Parratt-Halbert; Dave Burton; Sam Roberts; Adrian Perry; Eileen Sanderson; Michael Sanderson
Julie Coates; James Morley
Neil Harland; Sean Adair
Richard Harris



OPENING BUSINESS

1. Opening devotions

Led by Gill Newton – on the theme of being thankful

2. Apologies for absence

Jan Eldred; Margaret Mwaui; Mick Neal (Michael Sanderson substituting)
Arriving later: Sean Adair; Neil Harland; Richard Harris

3. Minutes of the DLT on 4 May

These were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes:

5. Greasbrough United update – An offer for the sale of the building has been accepted and is going through.

12. Worship and Preaching Officer – The report had been deferred due to the ill health of Jen Mullis. She has sadly died and a Service of Thanksgiving has taken place. This does mean we need to recruit a new W&P Officer. This will need to be advertised. We paused to give thanks for the life of Jen.

5. Report on delegated actions:

There have been no delegated actions

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6. Reflections from Conference – Gill Newton

The Conference was held in hybrid form, with most joining via Zoom and 60 delegates in the hall. The Presidential theme is God's table is for all – the need for inclusion.

There was a lot of interest in the God in Love Unites Us report. All the resolutions were passed with a significant majority. There is still much work to be done on this in local churches and circuits. A report on Online communion revealed that there are still diverse views about this matter. There will be a period of 3 years where Holy Communion will be allowed in online worship and feedback will be sought before a future Conference makes a final decision.

Oversight and Trusteeship report included recommendations regarding the minimum number of members required for a church to exist, on the number of trustee bodies in a circuit and on on and District reviews.

Other key reports – Ministry in the Methodist Church; Changing Patterns in Ministry; 3Generate; and Theology of Safeguarding

7. Requests to Cease Worship (original Item 9)

- a. Barlow & Cutthorpe (Derbyshire North East) – the report has been circulated. There were no comments. The request to cease worship, close and the Circuit take management responsibility was agreed

- b. Shafton (Barnsley) – the report has been circulated. There were no comments. The proposal to cease to worship, close and sell the building was agreed
- c. Princess Street (Rotherham and Dearne Valley) – the report has been circulated. There were no comments. The request to cease worship, close and be sold was agreed
- d. Baslow (The Peak) – the report has been circulated. There are possibilities for future use with ongoing conversations with Cliff College. At this stage the report was noted, AP will continue to explore options, SA suggested that the Circuit Meeting take the Management Trusteeship of the building, while congregation have permission to cease to meet. This was agreed.
- e. Eckington (Sheffield) – the report was circulated. JM added that the request was to cease to meet, close and sell. This was agreed.
- f. Woodsetts (Trinity) – the report was circulated. Permission to cease to worship was agreed. The circuit will decide on sale.

We paused to give thanks for the faithful service from these communities over the years.

8. Doncaster Town Centre update (original Item 10)

The report has been circulated. The original time frame for feasibility was until September. The group are now looking at some time in Autumn, due to Covid. JB reported some disquiet around the continued use of the building and conversations are ongoing around this.

9. Mission Action Plan review – Neil Harland (original Item 7)

Reports have been circulated.

Recruitment – applications still open for the Children & Youth Worker; there were some expressions of interest in the Missional Property Enabler, but no appointment has been made. It might not have been the right salary rate, so the panel suggest looking at a part time role (21 hours) with higher rate of remuneration; this seems more in line with similar roles elsewhere. While full time would be preferable, there is a balance to be struck. The proposal is to readvertise the role with 21 hours @ £19/hour. This was agreed.

NH has had a conversation with the Learning and Development Group which has been approving L&D Grants, holding an overview of the variety of training and learning activities and responding to training needs identified by the DLT. The group may not be the best place for all of these. It is important not to lose the focus on Learning but it was agreed that a smaller group be created to handle the grants process and the DLT will oversee the other matters through our focus on missional priorities. Members of the LN team will be invited to District Staff meetings at regular intervals during the year in order to maintain good relationships and ensure that there is not duplication of work between District and Region.

Study Guide proposal – hoped to be available after Lent 2022, but no expectation that churches/circuits will engage at that time. The resource can be used to suit each local context

Grants New proposals for the way in which we handle and assess grants were circulated. NH acknowledges that they may need review as they come into use. DLT agree to proceed with these at present.

Neil was thanked for the work he has done on all of this

10. Membership of District Leading Team update

Neil shared the list of those willing and keen to continue on the team. An advert has gone out and there are three expressions of interest, these will be followed up. Please encourage others (lay) to consider this to keep diversity within the team.) Some concern was expressed that we may be expecting too much of individuals within the role description.

ITEMS FOR RECEIVING AND NOTING

11. New Places For New People update

The report has been circulated. The expectation is that this District project will be springboard for similar projects in other places across the District where there are other opportunities. It was

agreed that it would be helpful to hold a Mission Forum in the Autumn to explore such opportunities together.

12. Treasurer's Report

The report has been circulated.

13. GDPR – Data Checklist

The Checklist has been circulated. DLT agreed KH can sign off on this.

14. Who Is Your Neighbour? Report

The report has been circulated. Eileen thanked the District for their support over the year. Thanks were also sent from DLT to WIYN.

Thanks were expressed for all who have served on the District Leadership Team as this is the last meeting in this form.

15. Closing prayers

The meeting closed at 20:32