

Agenda item 10

Matters raised by the Mission Areas

From: Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area

“ The Dyffryn Clwyd Mission Area Conference requests the St Asaph Diocesan Conference to submit a request to the Church in Wales Governing Body to initiate a Province wide consultation on the re-use of burial spaces”.

This reflects the deep concern expressed within the Mission Area at the number of local church graveyards that will be closed as they become full over the next five years. The Representative Body of the Church in Wales advises against further extension of existing church graveyards and many small rural communities will be faced with long distances to travel to the nearest available Local Authority graveyards. This will present rural churches with a difficult social and pastoral situation in their relationship with their local communities. The re-use of burial spaces that are over 100 years old would allow local churches to continue to bury the dead from their local communities without the need for further extension of graveyards and the extended maintenance costs associated with this. It would also allow small local churches to gain burial income to assist in the cost of maintaining existing graveyards, which under current rules they will be required to maintain even when full and there is no income to support this.

From: Penedeyrn Mission Area

1. This is a question about the impact and follow up to the many initiatives we have had in the last 5 years. Charities have to be transparent these days to donors in demonstrating the effectiveness of their projects.
 - 2014 The Time is Now Conference
 - 2015 The link with the Church Army and Pioneer Evangelists in Wrexham
 - Power of Prayer group which promised momentum, regular emails and a web of prayer
 - Together Creating Communities
 - 2016 - Mark Yaconelli legacy
 - Youth
 - Spiritual formation
 - Experiments with God document
 - Hope and a Future
 - Link with Green Pastures
 - 2017 LyCiG
 - Resource Church

These initiatives provide a toolbox of resources but what demonstrable take-up and impact have they had? What evidence is there that the investment was effective and worthwhile? Where are the results and follow-up reports?

2. Priority 2 of the 8 priorities is Stipendiary Lay Ministry and the DBF recommended that this form part of the bid to the Evangelism Fund. It is included in the Diocesan strategy document under "Service" in the third paragraph and in item 2 and also in "Youth" item 3.
3. Penedeyrn Mission Area is a widely spaced rural Mission Area, 30 miles from Ysbyty Ifan via Bala to Cynwyd. We have benefitted hugely from having a grant for a year from the Transformation Fund for a paid half time Children and Families worker who is also a voluntary Lay Evangelist. This year we have seen 2 tiny churches re-energised by ecumenical events and 3 new ecumenical Messy churches in villages in the extremes of the MA with 30+ children and their families who do not usually attend church or chapel coming to each. Café church has been established in Bala attracting people who do not usually attend church. Fellowship and musical community groups have been established and schools work enlarged. This job will cease in 3 months. Our clergy rely on lay workers to support their ministry in scattered communities, but we cannot expect a volunteer to achieve what has been done this year.
4. Is there a clear strategy for funding lay ministry and is it to be part of the bid to the Evangelism Fund?

From: Tanat Valley and Vyrnwy Mission Areas

1. Having received amalgamated membership statistics for the MA which are nonsensical because of their obvious inaccuracy, please could we have further specific guidance (which explains properly the advice given in the Membership Returns booklet) on how the Membership Return should be completed? This has now become of significant importance given that these statistics are now being used to measure how each MA is doing with its percentage growth target.
2. What do others think with regards to including figures for the 'Worshipping Community' along similar lines as to the that used by the Church of England in their 2017 report 'Statistics for Mission' (as reported in the Church Times 16th Nov) i.e. that churches are asked to estimate how many people attend church regularly - once a month - or would do so if not prevented by illness or temporary absence?