# Yorkshire North and East District: District Leadership Team

# 15 March 2022

**Summary**

**Present:** Leslie Newton, Naomi Prince, Malcolm Lucas, Nic Bentley, Bev Duffy, Andrew Brown, Emma Crippen, Bridget Bennett, Neville Simpson, Siân Henderson, Alister McClure

**In attendance:** Nigel Pimlott (observer), Adele Borrowman (part meeting)

1. **Matters carried forward from the previous meeting**

* The sale of St George’s church in York is moving ahead slowly.
* Only £6.2million of the £40million shortfall has been received in response to the request for support for the pension reserve. Further discussion will take place at the next Methodist Council
1. **Chair’s update**

**Stationing**

Revd Dr David Barker is leaving his role as Chaplain at Ashville College. A process to find his successor will soon be underway.

**World Church**

Revd Dr Richard Teal will be visiting Kenya this summer and will discuss the possibility of establishing a link with the Kenyan Methodist Church.

**Wellbeing**

Six people, representing a mix of lay and ordained, have expressed interest in forming a Wellbeing Group, alongside Tara Goodall. An initial meeting has been arranged for later this month.

**Rural Work**

An initial gathering of interested people took place in February. It was agreed that further conversations and networking between those involved in rural ministry would be helpful, and the possibility of some District-hosted meetings to listen carefully to needs and opportunities was welcomed. Denise Williamson will now take this forward with a small group who are keen to create a Rural ‘Enthusiasts’ Group. Leslie Newton and Mark Bevan will be attending the next meeting of the Ripon Cathedral/NYCC Rural Forum.

**District Vacancies**

Adverts for both the Circuit Support Team Leader and District Administrator are now live.

**Communication**

Elliot Crippen and Leslie Newton continue to have regular conversations about what might be put in place, within the bounds of available capacity, to improve story-telling and news-sharing around the District.

**District Vision work**

The group appointed by the DLT met in February; a second meeting is scheduled.

**Youth Team Sleep Out for Homelessness**

The Youth-led Sleep out for the Homeless raised just over £5,000 for three related charities: SASH, Carecent and Inspire North.

**District online prayer gathering**

Leslie Newton continues to lead a weekly, half hour District online prayer gathering.

**The Great 50 Days** (building on Platinum Jubilee/Pentecost celebrations)

Further discussion has taken place regarding a plan for coordinating and promoting a three-fold opportunity for churches between Easter and Pentecost (the Great 50 Days):

1. to use a course written last year by David Perry (The Kindness Course.)

2. to engage with local communities in offering some party/celebration - possibly in partnership with other community groups.

3. to engage with All We Can in raising money to contribute to one of their schemes

**Nationality and Borders Bill – article for Yorkshire Post**

An article written by Leslie Newton was published on 1 March.

**Ukraine Crisis**

Further work on coordinating church and circuit responses to the refugee crisis is underway.

1. **Property report**

A report was circulated, and the property secretary gave verbal updates. The difficulties in managing the strategic use and development of property across the district were acknowledged.

1. **Chair’s re-invitation**

**It was unanimously agreed to recommend to synod that Leslie Newton be offered a re-invitation for 5 years from September 2023.**

1. **Update on ‘Justice, Dignity & Solidarity’ strategy**

Alister McClure led a discussion on the implementation of the strategy, following the circulation of an explanatory paper. The proposal to develop a community of practice across the district was agreed. Expressions of interest will be encouraged at synod, with a workshop to offer further information.

1. **Hull International House**

A report from consultant Mark Griffin was circulated prior to the meeting. Bridget Bennett added her observations from her key role in taking forward the work at HIH. The support of the HR Officer was noted. A statutory notice has been received to improve the property and the Trustees delegated authority to Andrew Brown to manage the issues related to the property.

1. **New Places for New People Progress**

A report was circulated.

1. **Circuit 17**

Several circuits are at various stages of decision-making on a possible path towards joining Circuit 17.

1. **Youth Work**

Youth work has been changed by the Covid experience and numbers of young people engaging with church are concentrated in pockets around the district. A significant connexional grant that has supported youth work in the district over the last five years is due to expire and a review of the work is planned.

1. **Finance**

The year-end accounts are still in preparation by the auditors and will be brought to the next meeting for approval. District lay staff salaries will be increased by 4.21% from 1 April in line with the Real Living Wage increase.

**Budget**

The 2022-23 proposed budget was circulated prior to the meeting. Reserves have increased due to reduced activity during the pandemic therefore the total budget has been reduced by 2.4% compared to last year. **The budget was approved.** It was suggested that the method of calculating circuit assessment should be reviewed to reflect the realities of circuit ministry, and the views of the circuit treasurers will be sought.

1. **Net Zero Officer**

*[Adele Borrowman joined the meeting]*

A report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Adele Borrowman gave an overview of her report, noting that RCEF have declined the £100k grant request but will assist with sourcing alternative funds. The importance of a holistic approach to carbon reduction projects was emphasised, noting the potential for costly mistakes to be made with an unconnected or ill-informed approach.

The proposal to appoint a Net Zero worker was discussed, and it was agreed to appoint a steering group to take the appointment forward.

1. **DAF grants**

Grants Officer Nic Bentley led a discussion on applications. A report was circulated, including a list of grants awarded and rejected.

**Killinghall** – grant of £25k agreed for a building scheme

**District youth work** – £25k over two years agreed to cover the loss of the Connexional grant while youth work is reviewed.

**Net Zero worker/project pump priming** – £30k agreed.

1. **Lay authorisations**

An application for Lianne Kensett to offer communion in her capacity as a mental health chaplain was approved, with the provision of additional contextual information.

The York Circuit’s support for the second year of John Bailey’s authorisation was noted.

1. **Permission to cease worship**

The following churches were granted permission to cease worship:

* Barmby Moor Methodist Church, Pocklington & Market Weighton
* Finghall Methodist Church, Ripon and Lower Dales
* Stamford Bridge Methodist Church, York
* Thorngumbald Methodist Church, South Holderness
* New Earswick, York