



## MILTON KEYNES MISSION PARTNERSHIP

**Minutes of the Mission Partnership Assembly** which took place on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019** at Christ Church, Stantonbury

1. **Opening Worship** was led by Rev. Nicola Martyn-Beck

### 2. **Business**

(a) Minutes of the Assembly meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were agreed and signed.

(b) Ecumenical Oversight News presented by Tim Norwood, current Chair of the EOG.

The work on developing a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) document for our LEPs is going well. Meetings have taken place with the National Ecumenical Officers and the denominational lawyers.

(c) Date of next Assembly - The next Assembly, which is also our AGM, will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Venue TBA.

### 3. **Church Growth for Mission**

John Robertson explained that this meeting was an opportunity to hear and engage in conversation with the denominations and their ideas and plans for the future.

John set what we were about to hear in the context of our Vision ***MK: a City Alive to God*** which each of the denominations is expressing in their own way. Our Vision:

- Asks us to lift our horizons from church to the Kingdom of God, present to future  
Ditto denominations
- Asks us to open our eyes to what God is already doing
  - Called to work with God, discern what God is up to and not do our own thing
  - Ditto denominations
- Invites our commitment to the wellbeing of the city Jeremiah 29:7
  - City >> Church
  - Ditto denominations
- Calls us to work together to make dream a reality
  - Effective when we do mission in partnership
  - Ditto denominations

John asked as we listened to the presentations, to think how the denominations plan to address the Vision.

## **Francis Higgins**

### **The Roman Catholic Church**

- 1) Our structural reorganisation of parishes into a cluster
- 2) Our establishment of a different kind of “Team Ministry”
- 3) Our process for establishing different forms of “mandated lay ministry” across the diocese as a whole

## **George Mwaura**

### **The United Reformed Church**

The synod is thinking through a model of a Resource Church and Minister as a way forward

- 1) Partnering with other denominations in ways that fuel church growth
- 2) Engaging in teaching and equipping the laity in light of declining ministerial numbers
- 3) Using resources and assets available to us and our partners to drive that growth

## **Nicola Martyn-Beck**

### **The Methodist Church**

Let's start by being honest

Growing churches are intentional about making new disciples

So what are Methodists doing here in Milton Keynes

Mission can start from where we are in meeting local needs

Let's be strategic in the use of resources

Ultimately it's God's mission

**Tim Norwood**

## **The Church of England**

- 1) Oxford Diocese is working on a strategy called "Celebrate and Bless MK"
- 2) The key priority will be growth in terms of depth, impact and numbers
- 3) We want to work with others to build a "Prayer Network" for MK
- 4) We want to work with others to build a "Learning Hub" in MK
- 5) We want to strengthen teams, pioneer new churches and help existing churches to "break through"

**Nathan Marlam**  
- Baptist

## Mission emphasis

*Transition and mobilise a congregation for mission and ministry in the community and beyond*

Small groups

Care

Alpha

Community focused groups

Planting

**LBC**  
Loughton Baptist Church

## Accommodating growth

*Being visitor ready in practical terms*

- Administration hub – efficient to be effective
- Space – 'fit for purpose' accommodation to fulfill God's call (current site and Whitehouse etc)

**LBC**  
Loughton Baptist Church

### Three things:

- Strong Foundations
- Mission emphasis
- Accommodating growth in practical terms



### Maintaining strong foundations

*Pursuing excellence in what it means to be a disciple of Jesus*

- Prayer
- Worship
- Scripture



There was then an opportunity to have a conversation with the above speakers around tables.

#### *Observations*

Key initiatives >> challenge and opportunity  
Urgency  
Discipleship not softship  
Engagement not passengers

#### **Mission Partnership Role**

John Robertson identified three particular things which the Mission Partnership contributed into the church growth for mission agenda. They are:

- 1) Facilitating Conversation between various churches/denominations/people  
Encouraging effective mission through partnership  
>>synergy/alignment
- 2) Capacity Building
  - a. Learning Hub
    - i. Faith Learning
    - ii. Leadership
    - iii. Common Good
    - iv. Pioneering and Planting
- 3) Holding the Vision
4. **Prayer for the City** - The meeting closed with prayer.