

NORTHUMBRIAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION (NIM) BRIEFING MAY 2017.

The briefing for this period includes an update on governance activities, some good news about funding and more general matters.

Governance and Change of Charity Status.

We have made some progress in exploring a change to NIM's charity status as at present we are an unincorporated organisation leaving Trustees vulnerable to liability. The Executive Group met with Rob Charlton of Voluntary and Community Action, Sunderland who helps charities with governance and other issues. Following this, we had a discussion with our Vice Chair, Kate Welch, OBE, whose company Acumen assists Social Enterprises. We have concluded that the option we intend to propose at NIM's AGM in May, is that NIM should become a Charitable Company limited by guarantee. Although this means reporting to Companies House as well as the Charity Commission we feel that this is manageable with the benefits of limited liability outweighing any extra work.

Funding.

NIM continues to manage operations within budget and we are delighted to have recently been successful in securing some funding from the URC Mission Fund which will enable enhanced support and development of NIM's work.

Recruitment.

A number of members of the Management Committee have agreed to carry on and have been re-elected by their sponsoring churches. In addition, the URC church has nominated a new lay representative. We look forward to welcoming Ann Honey who is a church related community worker. We will soon be seeking some new chaplains as we have a small number ceasing to serve for one reason or another.

Outcomes.

Fiona Usher has been looking at ways of collecting more data to complement the soft information from the chaplains on the connections made and conversations held in the workplaces. Recording the number of encounters chaplains have with people will enable NIM to add some statistics to its other information. A small pilot has shown numbers to be quite substantial.

Talking Jesus.

20 Bishops and their Mission Teams from across the Northern Province of the Church of England were in the region over the weekend of 2 – 5 March to engage people in dialogue about Jesus. Churches from across the diocese were encouraged to put on events over the weekend. At the Metrocentre, the Chaplain Lyn Jamieson helped to arrange a "Flash Mob" rendition of "Testify to Love," with lyrics about creation, love and peace. The whole experience seemed to be very well received by the public.

Easter Gifts.

Continuing the communal knitting theme started with the Christmas Angels, the chaplain at TWFRS (Fiona Usher) worked alongside a number of colleagues from the Fire Service who knitted over 100 Easter chicks. These were each filled with a chocolate egg and gifted to FACT (Fighting All Cancers Together) – a local charity doing excellent work in supporting people with cancer (and their family and friends). They brought a little bit of joy during a very difficult period.

As usual this briefing requires no action but further information about NIM activities can be seen on our website www.northumbrianindustrialmission.org and we now also have a Facebook page.

Northumbrian Industrial Mission Management Committee.