



The Children's Ministry Network of Britain and Ireland
Business Meeting Minutes from Wednesday 16th November 2016
at the International Mission Centre, Birmingham

Present: Joy Raynor, Jacky Storey, Tony Hasler, Suzi Farrant, Isobel Booth-Clibborn, Sian Hancock, Aled Davies, Sara Barron, Hannah Field, Peter Hamill, Richard Knott, Jane Butcher, Mary Hawes, Mel Cook, Gail Adcock, Penny Fuller, Yvonne Morris, Andrea Harrison, James Mulhall, Karen Morrison, Jenny Warbrick, Rosie Nixon, Suzi Pearson, Christine Brown and Martyn Payne

Also at the conference but not at the Business Meeting: Alan Charter, Simon Peters and Adrian Kemp

Apologies: Grant Barclay and Lorraine Darlow

1. Matters arising from the last CMN Business meeting on 15th January 2016 and from the Executive Meeting on the 14th November 2016

- The new CMN logo has now been approved and the new website is up and running. There are still a number of updates and a certain amount of reorganisation to be done on the website and Joy Raynor and Simon Peters have agreed to work together on this over the coming months.
- The Executive is working on a new promotional leaflet about CMN which will be available in digital form for conferences and advocacy.
- The new CNN website is: www.childrensministrynetwork.org.uk

2. Finances

Aled reported that the network has about £11,000 in the bank and that there had been very few outgoings this year. As we normally keep about £8000 in reserve, this means that there is money available to support projects and new initiatives.

3. Membership and elections to the Executive

The Secretary will update the current membership list which will be available on the website.

Regular news is sent out by Mary via our google group and new members were asked to pass on their contact details to be added to this list.

Some members of the Executive are reaching the end of their current three year cycle and there will be new elections at the Spring conference in 2017.

4. Report on ECCE of the 2016

Penny reported briefly on ECCE conference in May 2016 which the UK hosted. Feedback from this has been generally very positive. The next ECCE conference is in Berlin in 2019.

5. Spring conference 2017

James Mulhall and colleagues in southern Ireland will be organizing the Spring 2017 conference at the Gold Coast Golf Resort in Dungarven. The nearest airport is Cork. The dates are: Monday 27th to Wednesday 1st March 2017 arriving for lunch on the 27th and leaving after lunch on the 1st. The cost should be £160 per person. James has obtained the promise of some local funding support from his diocese and it is hoped that this might help towards transport from Cork to the hotel. The conference's title and theme are: **'Who do we think we are? - reflecting on children, context and culture.'** James agreed to let us know as soon as possible further details so that flights can be booked and information and invitations sent out to members as soon as possible in the New Year.

6. Future Conferences

These are: our 24 hour conference in 2017 (7th- 8th November) at IMC; our 48 hour conference in Scotland in Spring 2018 – dates to be advised; and November 13th -14th 2018 at IMC.

7. Conversations

Penny facilitated group conversations focusing particularly on what we should do next to take forward the presentations at this conference.

A number of actions were identified which will be discussed at the CMN Executive in January 2017. These include:

- A possible module linked to Core Skills on continual professional development.
- Exploring a way to put resources for training on line through our new website along with information about current research, appropriately tagged.
- A working party to look into ecclesiology in relation to emerging forms of children's and family ministry.

- Exploring the possibilities of some sort of follow-up to our 'Hidden Congregation' conference from some years ago.
- Using CMN funds to develop our website and employ a freelance professional to develop the network digitally with short videos and easy to use resources for ministers.
- Looking into the best way to make accessible the conversations we are having at CMN so that local leaders might use these in their own context.

8. Farewell

We ended our conference with a presentation to Karen Morrison who has served CGMC/CMN for 18 years in various capacities. She is retiring from her role with the URC early next year. Karen spoke warmly about the importance of this network for her over many years, with its wealth of knowledge and shared learning that has supported many in their denominational roles. The healthy ecumenism displayed around ministry among children is a strength and a support in the face of much institutional change.

Date of next meeting: 1st March 2017 at our conference in southern Ireland