15 – Isle of Man

**District Development Plan 2018/19.**

**This development plan is due for review during 2020**

**Preamble**.

It needs to be noted that the Isle of Man is a District which has only one Circuit. For this reason, standing orders have been amended to allow for District Synod and Circuit Meeting to have identical membership and to function as either body whenever it meets. As such we have one Synod per year in the autumn. At the conclusion of Synod, we become Circuit Meeting to transact whatever Circuit business may be necessary. The other three occasions each year when we meet are Circuit Meetings but we have the facility to become Synod at the end of the meeting in order to transact District Business when necessary. All of which means that this development plan covers both District and Circuit.

In line with work already done we have arranged ourselves in to five areas for the purpose of deploying ministry and engaging in effective mission.

For the sake of clarity these areas are:

**North:** Barregarrow, Bride, Kirk Michael, Ramsey, Sandygate, Sulby.

**South:** Castletown, Colby, Ballabeg, Ballafesson, Ballagarey, Ballakilpheric, Ballasalla, Kerrowkeil, Port Erin, Port St.Mary, The Howe. Douglas: Promenade, Pulrose, Trinity.

**The West**: Crosby, Glen Maye, Peel, St.John’s.

**The East**: Abbeylands, Agneash, Baldrine, Cooil, Laxey, Onchan, Union Mills.

Ministerial provision from September 2019: North: one full time. South: one full time plus one supernumerary at 1/3rd full time equivalent. Plus one Lay Pastoral Assistant part time. (Currently recruiting). Douglas: one full time plus one supernumerary\* at 1/3rd full time equivalent. \*Currently the District Chair/Superintendent. West: one full time. (Probationer, initially 75% until September 2019) East: one and a half full time equivalent job share between two Presbyters.

*The key question underpinning this work is: How can we, together, be most effective for God and be agents for God’s Kingdom and what must our priorities be as we face the future?*

**Priorities.**

• We encourage at least one congregation in each area to commit itself to being church in a distinctly different way. This may include, family friendly worship, contemporary worship, etc. Underlying this is the understanding that offering the same thing everywhere will inevitably limit the number of people we can reach.

• The deployment of staff and local preachers in a strategic way to encourage consistency of preaching, teaching and worship styles within each of the areas listed above.

• With effect from September 2019 the establishment of a ‘Cliff Local’ scheme, delivered by Cliff College, on the island to train 30 lay people from across the Circuit in Mission and Evangelism. Those taking part will be funded jointly by District/Circuit and Local Church. Current intention, dependent on outcomes, is to repeat this programme every three years.

• With effect from September 2019 launching a “Year of Mission” project in the East. In co-operation with Cliff College to have a student placed with us for one year working with local churches as part of their graduate internship programme. Current intention, dependent on outcomes, is to repeat this programme each year moving around the areas.

• As part of our Mission/Outreach programme we have invested in a vehicle which will be available to take hospitality and a space for conversation and prayer to the more remote parts of the island and also to the strategic “honeypots” where people gather during Motor Sport events, Agricultural shows etc. This project will launch in March 2019 under the title of “Bus Ny Banaghtyn” Manx Gaelic for “The Bus of Blessings”.

• Undertake a thorough review of the South where we have eleven churches in a very small area. This review was launched in December 2018 and is beginning to produce fruit in terms of cooperation and collaboration.

**General points to note.**

We have recently entered into an ecumenical agreement with regard to safeguarding. In cooperation with the Roman Catholics, Anglican’s and the Living Hope independent church we have employed a full time “Ecumencial Safeguarding Advisor” this has been accepted by Connexion as fulfilling our requirement to have an employed DSO and is already producing dividends in terms of inter church cooperation and the relationship between statutory bodies on the island and the church in general. We are being encouraged by each of our denominations to explore possible models for merging safeguarding training and practice across the denominations.

We are also on a journey towards a Methodist/URC LEP in the Northern area.

With the need to replace the current District Chair in 2021 we have begun conversations about the possibility of exploring alternative models of being an off-shore district.