

July 2008 NEWS & UPDATE

Cumbria Churches Trust

Malcolm has had 4 meetings with the Cumbria Churches Trust including a consultative event. Two workers have been appointed and are now in post. Members confirmed their view that NMWFTA and Cumbria Churches Trust are natural partners and could in the future collaborate to our mutual benefit. It was suggested we invite one of the two appointees to attend our next meeting.

Prayer Boards

Malcolm intends to arrange a day for 8 priests to discuss how prayer boards can be used to help satisfy spiritual needs.

Membership

The secretary reported the slow response to the request for membership renewal. Malcolm reminded members that, if we are to achieve credibility, we need to ensure that we have fulfilled our membership aims: at least 3 trustees, 100 registered members and a steering group that reflected our membership.

Exhibition Stands & Leaflet

New publicity stands have been completed and are in use at Chorley. Although very useful in the short and medium term they will need updating to reflect our changing membership and 'marque' awards as we progress.. New leaflets are being produced. The stands and possibly the leaflets will be used for an event on the 21st July. A folder to hold leaflets and correspondence is also planned.

Interpretation Materials

Malcolm updated us on the plan to invite 12 churches in Cumbria to a seminar at Rydal Hall to produce template interpretation materials to help sacred sites produce their own quality resources.

Marque News

Malcolm gave an update on 'marque' presentations. In Liverpool a mosque and a Gurdwara are being considered for the marque and a church is being advised on improvements needed before eligibility for the marque. The plans for the ceremony at Carlisle Cathedral include guest presenter Andrew Lloyd Weber and children's choirs singing songs from Andrew's shows. This event should give us maximum publicity!

Mission Statement

Members agreed to adopt the following as the basis of our statement: *NWMFTA to enable sacred sites and their communities to provide excellent visitor experiences through the promotion of the 'marque of excellence' award scheme.* The statement would then include aims and objectives which would help fulfil its mission statement. Daniel offered to work on the details of the statement.

Website

The secretary will send an email reminder to active members encouraging them to contact the webmaster requesting a password.

2008 Programme Structures

Malcolm discussed his proposal to hold one-day seminars annually in each of the 5 official tourism areas each February. Each seminar would be asked to nominate 2 people to represent them at the next general meeting of our association and then from that meeting to find one person to serve on our steering group.

Funding Bid

Malcolm summarised the bid for Heritage and Heritage Lottery funds which would enable us to employ a qualified project manager. Only half the money required is on offer and but this may be seen as anchor funding and will encourage others to support us. Malcolm is hopeful that the bid has been accepted in principle but he has been asked to send information to support the salary figure.

Strategic Planning Meetings

Malcolm is having some strategic planning meetings with the tourism boards where he will discuss what we can offer to deliver and then what funding would be needed for this delivery!

Warrington Area

Warrington was suggested for some 'marque' development. Churches suggested were: St Benedict's RC Church, Warrington Parish Church, Holy Trinity Church, St Mary's R.C. Church and possible the Sikh Temple in Dover Street

The Government Strategy for Faith Tourism

The launch of this initiative takes place at Wembley on 21st July. £50K has been promised for developing a faith strategy and will be distributed regionally, probably through the Regional Forum of Faith NW Office in Manchester. As NWDA will be represented, John offered to have the screens and leaflets taken down with NWDA publicity materials.

Grant/net - a Christian Initiative based in the Chester Area

Peter gave us a brief outline of this scheme which enables organisations such as ours to find out about possibilities open to us and may help us apply for specific grants.

Next meeting

Tuesday 7th Oct. 10.30 to 12.30

Venue: Saint Francis Xavier's Church, Salisbury Street Liverpool L3 8DR Tel: 0151 298 1911