

# Easingwold Deanery Mission Plan 2017

(Revised and Interest groups amended June 2019)

## Vision

Easingwold deanery is part of the Diocese of York within the Church of England, so inherits the values and mission of the diocese.

*Generous Churches, making and nurturing disciples, growing in Christ-likeness, Commitment, Partnership, Influence and Numbers.*

Within Easingwold deanery, we aspire to be

*A local network of churches, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry.*

While working towards that, we are committed to improving communication and growing in mutual support for all the churches within the deanery, so that we all benefit from a flourishing deanery.

We see the main purpose of the deanery as:

- Mutual encouragement
- Sharing resources
- Celebrating God's goodness

We recognise that the needs and gifts of our churches vary considerably, with smaller churches relying to a greater degree for support from other churches in the deanery. We value the contribution that every church makes to our deanery and strive to help those that are struggling and celebrate with those that are thriving. We recognise that each church is in a unique context and will do things differently in order to serve their community. We encourage churches to be generous in sharing their experiences and knowledge with others.

## Aims

To understand the strengths and needs of each parish.

To pray for each other.

To plan for, and enable, Mission across the Deanery.

To seek to ensure an appropriate level Ministry (ordained and lay) across the Deanery.

To make best use of our resources.

To keep growing our partnership

The first fruit of the Mission Partnership will involve setting up interest-groups with members drawn from across the deanery. We will link together individuals with a passion for one or more areas of mission:

- Telling the good news of Jesus Christ & Helping people to grow in their faith – now combined as “Discipleship” group
- Challenging unjust structures in society
- Caring for the environment
- **Helping our worship to be the best it can be – to be parish based mission.**
- **Sharing God's love with all people – to be parish based mission.**

When one person with a passion for mission in one church can be isolated, we hope that by linking people together we can achieve more. We also recognise the importance of music for our spiritual growth and plan to draw together talented musicians to provide a resource for the deanery.

## **Continuing Good Practice**

Led by our clergy and lay-leaders, the deanery meets in synod 3 times a year and organises at least two deanery training events each year. We commit time in synod to hearing the good (and bad) news stories from our churches and commit to praying for each other.

In order to enable better communication, each church is asked to commit financially towards funding 6 hours of admin support per week from the deanery coordinator. The deanery coordinator reports to the area dean and keeps the work of the deanery moving forward throughout the year through regular newsletters.

In order to put our existing collaborative working on an official footing, in November 2016 we inaugurated the Easingwold Deanery Mission Partnership, showing our commitment to closer working together across the deanery. In June 2017, the clergy will all be cross-licensed to each other to allow easier working across parish boundaries and to enable long-term projects to flourish.

## **Actions**

- New Deanery Synod to approve this plan
- New Deanery Synod agree specific targets and actions for the coming years
- Audit of what every church already does beyond Sunday services
- Make celebrating good news a greater part of deanery communication

## **Challenges**

- Supporting vacant benefices
- Need to build engagement and understanding within the congregations
- Teaching on mission
- Balancing commitment between local church, benefice and deanery
- Keeping momentum going between meetings