

Minutes of Easingwold Deanery Synod Oct 7th 2019 Easingwold Church

Present – Margaret Price (Lay Dean), Revd Lottie Cranfield, Revd Trevor Gant, Revd Stephen Pope, Revd Margaret Young, Revd Martin Harrison, Revd Catherine Toase, Revd Katharine McBride, Revd Liz Hassall, Andrew Evans, Michael Wansborough, Malcolm French, Richard Mapletoft, Janet Mountain, Janet Irish, Kathy Peacock, Rome Sigsworth, Jane Johnson, Jane Pearce, Michael Turvey, Adam Thomas, Alizon Leese, Arthur Harland, Carol Colbourne, Sian Merritt.

Apologies – Revd Steve Whiting, Revd Debbie Coyne, Louise Clark, Alan Hake, Liz Crawshaw, Hilary Clough Smith, Paula Ritchie.

1. Revd Margaret Young welcomed us to Easingwold Church and led us in prayer.
2. Margaret Price informed us that there has still been no appointment of an Area Dean. New members were welcomed, including Revd Katharine McBride, Assistant Curate in Strensall; and, in her absence, Revd Debbie Coyne, new incumbent in the Tollerton Group.

3. Minutes of synod 11 June 2019 were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising – Margaret P informed us that there should be an announcement about the new Archbishop of York in the spring, in good time for Sentamu's retirement in June. It is not yet known if Bishop John will run a Lent Course for our deanery in 2020 but the feeling from the Deanery leadership Team (DLT) meeting was that it might be beneficial for benefices to also run courses. Margaret explained that the DLT meets inbetween the synod meetings to keep things moving forward and to plan the synod meetings. If anyone is interested in joining the team please contact Margaret for more information. Current members are the Area Dean, Margaret Price as Lay Dean (Stillington), Jane Johnson as treasurer (Sutton), Sian Merritt as secretary (Crayke), Revd Martin Harrison (Strensall), Revd Margaret Young (Easingwold) and Janet Mountain (Strensall).

5. Updates on Interest groups –

Discipleship (this is the combined groups of "Telling the Good News of Jesus Christ" and Helping people to grow in their faith) – running a training course on Saturday October 12th at Tollerton Church 10am – 1pm with taster sessions of courses including START, Pilgrim and Talking Jesus. Please let Liz Hassall know if you are going (revliz@trundlebug.co.uk).

Challenging Unjust Structures – foodbanks seem to be going well across the deanery, if any help is needed with yours contact Janet Mountain (jacenturion@btinternet.com). The plan to train some folk in debt counselling is proving more complex than realised and is on hold at present. The group could do with more members - please contact Janet if you are interested in joining or have any topics you would like the group to get involved with.

Jane Johnson informed synod that Sutton parish is soon to launch an initiative linking fuel poverty and the government winter fuel payments which she will keep us informed about as it may be applicable in other parishes.

Helping our Worship to be the best it can be – Margaret Young explained that it has become clear that this is something best worked on at parish/benefice level where it is already happening following on from LyCiG and so this group will not continue. We are encouraged to advertise via the weekly Deanery News if there is special or different worship happening in our churches so it can be shared and opened up to all. Any successes/useful worship ideas would be good to hear about at synod.

Caring for the Environment – recycling of crisp bags is going well but due to contamination with non-recyclable things it is now only crisp bags, not biscuit wrappers please. Plastic pens are still OK. Please spread the word in the villages and put a box in your church then pass the bags to Margaret Price. Churchyard visits happened again in the summer including an impromptu moth survey at Marton which yielded 21 different species in 2 hours.

Help has been given to Carlton Husthwaite with managing their burial ground at Birdforth church. Margaret P encouraged us to leave corners in all our churchyards for wildlife.

6. Coordinator Report – this was presented by Carol and is attached. Please let her know if you do not have a personal log in for the website (easingwolddeanery@gmail.com). Please make yourself familiar with it and feedback any thoughts, ideas or information for it - and also for the weekly Deanery News.

7. Diocesan Synod report – Richard Mapletoft told us that he had attended his first synod and was pleasantly surprised at how exciting he found it and especially how mission based it was. Malcolm French informed us that although we have had the summary report, the full minutes from synod won't appear for a while but he will ensure that these go to Carol to be put on the website for those who are interested.

General synod report – Margaret P highlighted some discussion points from the summary we had received from Paul Hutchinson, including the importance of the Mothers Union internationally (we have branches in Easingwold and Sutton), serious youth crime, clergy care & wellbeing and safeguarding. She encouraged us to see safeguarding as caring for others as part of our Christian faith rather than something that is a nuisance.

8. Setting God's People Free – synod's response on this to the diocese, based on discussion at previous synod and in PCC's, and agreed by the DLT, had been circulated with the agenda for information.

9. Re-imagining Ministry – we have been set questions by Bishop John about managing limited resources into the future and asked for our thoughts and ideas. Margaret P also asked us to look at how those ideas fit with our Deanery Mission Plan and whether that might need amending. We split into benefice groups to start this process.

Margaret would like those initial responses – one from each group - by October 14th and any extra thoughts that come from discussion with PCC's to follow asap please. The DLT will then discuss it further on Nov 12th and plan the presentation of our answers to the Bishop at the next synod in January.

10. Come and See Mission March 12-15 2020 –

Liz Hassall explained that this is an exciting opportunity to try mission events that we have always wanted to do and to show case what we do already. We will have a team of helpers allocated for the duration, as well as 1 or 2 Bishops. At the moment Liz, Lottie Cranfield, Margaret Young and Richard Mapletoft are on the planning team and could do with a few others to join, especially lay folk. Events can be at parish level, deanery level, small, large, expansions of what already happens or totally new, for children, for older folk, for everyone - and several things can happen in different places at once. Please contact Liz if you are interested and/or if you have any ideas about what we can do. (revliz@trundlebug.co.uk)

11. Synod dates – Mon 13 Jan 2020 7pm with Bishop John – venue tbc
Wed 10 June 2020 7pm
Tues 13 October 2020 7pm

Easingwold were thanked for their hospitality and Margaret Young led us in Aidan Compline.

Sian Merritt