

Minutes of Easingwold Deanery Synod Jan 16th 2019 Tollerton Church

Present – Revd Liz Hassall (Area Dean), Margaret Price (Lay Dean), Jane Johnson (treasurer & Deanery Financial Adviser), Revd Charlotte Cranfield, Revd Trevor Gant, Revd Stephen Pope, Revd Dot Hicks, Arthur Harland, Paula Ritchie, Liz Crawshaw, Andrew Evans, Malcolm French, Richard Mapletoft, Kathy Peacock, Carolyn Fletcher, Janet Mountain, Jane Pearce, Michael Turvey, Sian Merritt (secretary),

Apologies – Revd Margaret Young, Revd Steve Whiting, Revd Martin Harrison, Revd Rob Suekarran, Revd Malcolm Wainwright, Janet Irish, Alizon Leese, Michael Wansborough, David Mitchellinnes, Alan Hake.

Opening worship was led by Revd Liz Hassall who also welcomed and congratulated Revd Dot Hickes, long time Reader at Strensall and recently ordained as Deacon.

1. Approval of Minutes 25 Sept 2018 – signed as a correct record
2. Matters Arising from minutes – none.

3. Citizen's Advice speaker, Nigel Lewen. The Citizen's Advice Bureaux began at the start of WW2. They provide advice to help people deal with the problems they face. As a consequence of seeing those problems and collecting data they are able to lobby to change policies and practices that are not working. The advice given is free, confidential and impartial.

The National CA organisation provides training, IT and specialist support, quality control and audit and lobbies government.

Local organisations each run as an independent charity, responsible for their own funding (mostly from local councils) and recruitment. There are 316 in the country working in 3,300 different locations. Local to us is the Mid Yorkshire branch with outreach in Easingwold. There is a separate branch in York City.

They provide face to face meetings (over 50% of their consultations), via telephone, email, webchat and online info via the website. Topics include debt and welfare benefits (the main ones), housing, employment, consumer concerns, family matters, health, education and discrimination.

They differ from other advice organisations by the breadth of topics covered, availability of face to face meetings and their holistic approach (ie they can look beyond the immediate problem to pre-empt other issues arising).

Volunteers have full training provided, expenses paid and usually give 1-2 days per week.

During questions Nigel explained that it is not practical for various reasons to offer "pop up" sessions at any of our church/community café meetings but that he is available to come and talk at those. The most helpful thing we can do as churches is to make folk aware of CA - where the nearest branch is, what the national helpline number is etc. Nigel will arrange to send info leaflets to Liz for our churches.

4. Financial Report. (sent with agenda) Synod unanimously agreed the proposed budget. Thanks to Jane for her work and a reminder that she is also the Deanery Financial Adviser and available for any queries – she will be contacting all the PCC treasurers in due course.

5. Lent Course, Bishop John. Wednesday evenings in Lent, starting on 13th March, at Easingwold Methodist Church . Probably 7pm but watch the Deanery News for clarification. It will be based on the Beatitudes, Matthew Ch 5. Please ensure your congregations know about it.

6. Diocesan Synod report. (sent with agenda) The diocese is getting national funding for the project to reach those in their 20's – 40's, which in turn we could apply for if we have ideas for something within our deanery – the leadership team will discuss this but any ideas are welcome.

Liz encouraged us to tell our PCC's about Diocesan synod and circulate the report to them.

There is a vacancy for a lay member on Diocesan synod (current lay members are Malcom French and Paula Ritchie and for the clergy, Liz Hassall and Lottie Cranfield). Contact any of them for more info.

