

## Minutes of Easingwold Deanery Synod June 6th 2018 in Tollerton Church

Present – Revd Liz Hassall (Area Dean), Margaret Price (Lay Dean), Jane Johnson (treasurer & Deanery Financial Adviser), Revd Steve Whiting, Revd Malcolm Wainwright, Revd Martin Harrison, Revd Catherine Toase, Revd Trevor Gant, Revd Rob Suekarran, Arthur Harland, Hilary Clough Smith, Michael Wansborough, Jane Pearce, Alizon Leese, Carolyn Fletcher, Andrew Evans, Richard Mapletoft, Paula Ritchie, Janet Mountain, Michael Turvey, Alan Hake, Malcolm French, Sian Merritt (secretary),

Apologies – Revd Margaret Young, Revd Charlotte Cranfield, Liz Crawshaw, Janet Irish, David Mitchellines, Graeme Wrightson

1. Opening worship was led by Revd Trevor Gant.  
2. Approval of Minutes Jan 15th 2018 - these were signed as a correct record.  
3. Matters Arising from minutes – Margaret Price encouraged those synod reps who have not yet joined one of the Interest Groups to consider doing so and reminded us that they are also open to church members who might have a specific interest or talent in that area. Please contact Margaret or Liz Hassall with any queries or requests to join.

4. Interest groups – Janet Mountain spoke about the “Challenging unjust structures in society” group. Ideas they have include joining in with established groups eg Fairtrade, Christians against Poverty (CAP). Looking at housing, education, local issues like fracking. They are keen to find out what already goes on in our churches and what we would like help with. Synod split into 3 groups, each considering 2 different questions from the group:

Q1 What are the common injustices within your community and how do they affect your service to the community?

Q2 What current resources do you utilise to support people who may suffer from such injustices?

Accessing services (bank, doctor, shops) due to transport difficulties eg older people losing their independence, those in poverty or without a car, no buses. Help is given in an ad hoc neighbourly fashion which often works well but could our churches help in a more organised way?

Lack of social housing. Can we become a Christian voice on/to housing associations? Do we need to lobby our MP's as this is a national issue too?

Not being computer literate excludes access to many services and the best deals.

Foodbanks seem mostly to be in place and well supported.

Q3 What national/church resources are you aware of that challenge unjust structures?

Q4 What information & support can the deanery offer to help your service to the community?

Church Urban Fund. The Children's Society. RESTORE & SASH– both York charities. Churches opening their door to the homeless. Safe House stickers in windows. Debt advice – can church members learn how to become debt advisers? Lobby MP's about apparent cuts to Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Q5 How would you like to be involved in this important debate?

Q6 Any comments you would like to make?

Teaching on how best to lobby MP's & local councils, how to get involved locally in decision making and to persevere on issues without being side lined. How to use social media in local lobbying.

It was noted that there are different injustices between our rural and more urban church areas. Social care accessibility and employment opportunities can be less in rural areas. There are more services available in York but these have limited reach out to our church areas. There is rarely racial prejudice rurally – not least as the population is predominantly white.

Use the Deanery News to disseminate information about resources that we might hear about.

Janet concluded by offering to set up some talks for us eg from Fairtrade and CAP and a session on how to lobby, which was welcomed. She encouraged us to discuss this with our PCC's and feedback any more ideas. The aim is to do something specifically as a deanery, as well as to support our PCC's in what they are doing.

She also recommended "Googling" sermons on the topic as she had found them very interesting.

Caring for the Environment group – Margaret Price told us of a study visit organised for the group, but open to anyone in our churches, to learn more about managing churchyards to encourage diversity of flora and fauna – on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> 9am starting at the churchyard b/w Sutton and Huby. Full details are in the weekly News email. The group are also organising a visit to the new Allerton incinerator in October and looking into the hot topics of plastics recycling and fracking.

5. Diocesan Synod nominations – following the meeting we have 3 lay and 2 clergy nominees, which is our quota. Date for nomination is now closed.

6. The LyCiG Journey – Revd Malcolm Wainwright told us that a group from Shipton, Skelton & Newton (a benefice with 3 churches, 4 villages & 2 clergy) had attended the "Leading your Church into Growth" conference in Feb 2018 and found that it focussed thoughts they had already been having about the way forward. After they returned, the group ran a benefice Quiet Day entitled "Growing for the future" to which 26 people came for worship, lunch and LyCiG feedback. From this was set up a benefice-wide "group for growth" of 8 people to focus on prayer and to keep nudging the process along. They have invited Revd Matt Woodcock – one of the LyCiG contributors - to their next meeting and are positive about the future.

Sian Merritt reported on progress from the Byland Churches group (Crayke, Brandsby, Yearsley, Coxwold, Husthwaite, Carlton Husthwaite & Wass). 3 laity and 2 clergy attended LyCiG in September 2016 and returned very enthused - the challenge being to pass that on to everyone else. The benefice-wide "LyCiG local" course led to 3 areas to concentrate on – making our worship as good as it can be; doing more with music; having more discussion & teaching opportunities to increase our confidence in sharing our faith. PCC's are using the LyCiG worship check list to review their weekly worship. We are making our joint 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday services more special with 3 of the LyCiG attendees meeting with folk from the relevant church to plan the service, introducing different prayers & songs, developing a singing group (a good way to involve people on "the fringe" of church), involving people from across the 7 churches, personally inviting & offering lifts, having bring and share lunches afterwards.

Revd Liz has started a benefice Sunday evening discussion service once a month, followed by Compline - currently discussing our confirmation vows.

We have run two START and one MOVING ON courses and from that had 3 adults come to confirmation. We are also working on Welcome Packs, considering meeting occasionally just to enjoy singing and we keep reviewing and praying regularly.

7. Coordinators Report – the updated Resource Directory was distributed – many thanks to Carol for this, not least for getting all the consents in place that had to be reviewed in light of the GDPR Regulations. Please keep these in a vestry for congregation & PCC use and not available to the general public. Personal copies can be obtained by emailing Carol.

Don't forget to use the Deanery News to share information, good news, events etc and ensure the information reaches your PCC and church members - they can receive it directly by emailing Carol to be added to her mailing list.

Jane Johnson reported that we have been given £128 from the Deanery Choir event on Good Friday in Easingwold. This has been added to the Mission Fund available for deanery use.

8. Training Dates – July 4<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Durham Ox Barn, Crayke (behind the main pub).

Liz is running this evening and after discussion the topics will be:

Using Facebook as the public face of our churches

Using WhatsApp as a tool

Using blogs

Using Social Media to lobby

Using Twitter – we do have a Deanery twitter account (@EWolddeanery) – let Liz know of any ideas of what she should tweet

This evening is open to all in our churches – please let Liz know who is coming. If anyone in your churches is knowledgeable on the topics and can help on the evening, please let her know. Bring your phones/tablets etc. There is WiFi in the pub.

October 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 Sat am – there will be a deanery training session on the Challenges of Mental Health & Drug Use – more information to follow.

July 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm Diocesan House – information evening on Diocesan Sustainable Finances planning

#### 9. Any Other business

Deanery Website – the update of this is moving forward. Carol is now back at work and would like photos of activities in our churches, for the rolling slide show on the website. Please email them to her.

Electoral Roll certificate – Sian requests that you ask your Electoral Roll officers to ensure they have returned a copy of this to her (as Deanery Secretary) – they are due after Annual Meetings & several are still outstanding.

Tollerton were thanked for hosting us.

Next meeting (refreshments from 6.30 for 7pm start)

Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 Strensall Church Hall