

## Minutes of Easingwold Deanery Synod Jan 15th 2018 in Easingwold Church

Present – Revd Liz Hassall (Area Dean, in chair), Margaret Price (Lay Dean), Jane Johnson (treasurer & deanery Financial Adviser), Revd Margaret Young, Revd Charlotte Cranfield, Revd Steve Whiting, , Revd Malcolm Wainwright, Revd Rob Suekarran, Revd Stephen Pope, Arthur Harland, Liz Crawshaw, Hilary Clough Smith, Janet Irish, Michael Wansborough, Jenny Hexton, Rita Bresnen, Jane Pearce, Carolyn Fletcher, Janet Mountain, David Mitchellines, Carol Colbourne, Sian Merritt (secretary),

Apologies – Revd Martin Harrison, Revd Catherine Toase, Revd Trevor Gant, Stephanie Dow, Carole Todd, Alizon Leese Kathy Peacock, Paula Ritchie. Andrew Evans, Michael Turvey, Alan Hake, Nick Warren, Anne Johnson

1. Opening hymn & prayer was led by Revd Margaret Young.
2. Approval of Minutes Oct 18th 2017 - these were signed as a correct record.
3. Matters Arising from minutes – Margaret Price asked the synod reps who have not yet done so to join one of the Mission groups (please contact Revd Liz Hassall about this) and reminded us that the groups are open to anyone in our PCC's or congregations who might be interested, so we are encouraged to keep feeding back information about them to our parishes.  
Michael Wansborough asked if the weekly Deanery News could be put on the Deanery Website – Liz Hassall said that this might be possible with the planned revamp of the website (see coordinators report).
4. Strensall Mission Week Report – Revd Rob Suekarran. This was held early October 2017, organised by a Mission Team of about 8, main aim to share faith with the community. Help from the Archbishop's Evangelist Team who provided speakers for various events. Some members of the church also shared faith stories. Events included: expanding on usual regular events ie. men's breakfast, soup social and kid's groups; Little Fishes; healing seminar & service; golf event; sports for 11-15's; talent show; big breakfast before the Sunday service. Prayer was a key part of the preparation and church members were encouraged to personally invite others to go with them to events.

Results: a significant number of non-Christians heard the message of Jesus and saw that church-goers are just normal folk; events were well attended by the community; even the events with fewer numbers were appreciated by those who did go; there was a real connection between the church and the village; gave confidence to the church members that an ambitious project like this was achievable; personal invitation really works.

Subsequently: a START course was run (15 signed up, 4 attended); a "Light" event for Halloween was very well attended; the culture of mission within the church is continuing and more events are planned.

Questions: - Arthur Harland asked Rob to explain their "chilli" labelling of the events – they were labelled 1,2 or 3 "chilli" depending on the strength of the faith message, with 1 being just listening to the sharing of faith stories, 2 being more personally challenging and 3 inviting those who attended to actually respond. This ensured a variety of events and that those doing the inviting could explain honestly what was likely to happen at the event.

Michael Wansborough asked about the advertising for the week – the date was put in the Parish Magazine well in advance (every household gets the magazine); a programme of events was printed and distributed with the magazine; Facebook; posters; local pub and village hall were involved as venues and helped with advertising. Subsequently the success of the week was reported in the Deanery News email.

Easingwold Mission Weekend Report – Revd Charlotte Cranfield. This was a planned following the LyCiG course; Harvest weekend was chosen; Primary school children were invited afterschool on the Friday to a party event involving crafts and singing and goody bags (about 25 children came); that evening there was a choir event with cheese and wine; Saturday included a "Bake Off" competition, a family afternoon of crafts, flower decorations for the church and a quiz around the church. Advertising included a leaflet drop and using the Easingwold Advertiser (and also to report back afterwards).

Overall it had been a success and a learning experience for future mission events, particularly to improve the planning of advertising/invitations beforehand.

5. Small group discussion on item 4 – feedback from the groups:

Margaret Price – personal invitation is key. Sharing the load of organisation with and encouraging “ownership” of the mission events by the whole congregation especially important in the smaller churches. Steve Whiting – going out and bringing people in to our churches/ events is important, not just opening the doors and expecting them to come.

Margaret Young – time of day for activities will affect who comes – needs consideration.

Liz Crawshaw – different ideas will suit different villages/churches – share ideas across benefices, make regular fundraisers more mission orientated, food is always important.

Rob Suekarran – work with community members as well as church goers – very successful for Strensall’s talent show for example.

Liz Hassall - plan activities to suit your type of population.

Liz also encourages us to tell our PCC’s about these discussions and ideas for mission and to bring any good ideas from PCC’s back to Deanery Synod and to share any good news in the Deanery News.

6. Financial report – this was presented by Jane Johnson (copies will be sent out with the minutes) who thanked the parishes for their contributions to the payment for Carol and explained that due to a surplus, in part as Carol was off sick for a while, the parish contributions will be reduced by 50% from the expected level – Jane will inform treasurers.

Liz Hassall asked about the remaining balance from the restricted giving for mission (at the time of the Archbishop’s visit) – this stands at £351.

Liz Hassall reported on the Deanery Freewill Offering figures - in 2017, we offered £20,000 less across the Deanery than we did in 2016. However, on the positive side, it has all been paid in full, including a little extra, such that 101.03% of what was pledged has been paid.

For 2018, most of our churches have increased their offers. There will be information coming to PCC’s from the diocese encouraging us to be generous churches and explaining how the money is used.

Liz asks that we help our PCC’s to understand that the money is for the life of our churches, it is ultimately used for our benefit.

7. Coordinators Report – this will be circulated with the minutes, so please read separately. Particularly note the change of email address for Carol which will come into being on March 1<sup>st</sup> – there will be reminders in the Deanery News weekly emails. Please ensure those in your parish who need to know are made aware of this.

Carol will keep us informed about the new General Data Protection Regulation (replacing the Data Protection Act) as she gets information from the diocese and will offer help with queries. Liz Hassall explained that this will also impact PCC’s and individual clergy and, while onerous, must be done properly as the penalty for not doing so is large.

8. Diocesan Report – this report, from the Diocesan website, was circulated with the agenda. Margaret Price, who is our Diocesan Synod lay rep, along with Malcolm French, explained that they will both be standing down from Diocesan Synod this time. There will be elections in the Spring so we are asked to consider standing. It is open to anyone on the Electoral Roll (you do not have to be on Deanery Synod, though, if elected, would become an ex-officio member) and the Deanery Synod is the electorate. There will also be elections for 2 clergy reps. It involves 2-3 Saturday mornings per year. Please contact Margaret Price or Liz Hassall if you have questions about this.

9. Mission Group Reports -

Helping our worship to be the best it can be – Margaret Young. A few members of the group met once. Plan to start with an audit of the worship that already happens in the Deanery. Sian Merritt will circulate a form to every parish and ask for these to be completed and returned to Margaret Young. The group will collate the answers and produce a directory of what goes on where. The hope is that this will lead to a sharing of ideas and experiences and also encourage people to try worship of different kinds in different places. In addition the group produced a slimmed down version of the “worship checklist” from LyCiG, which will also be circulated, and encourage individual PCC’s, if not already doing so, to look at their worship and see what might be improved. Feedback and sharing of good ideas from this would be welcome. It is also suggested that “mystery worshippers” might be helpful and could be organised locally if a church would like that.

(see <http://www.shipoffools.com/mystery/index.html> for interesting reports from mystery worshippers!)

Caring for the Environment - Margaret Price. The group has decided to focus on 3 areas – churchyard management; reducing our carbon footprint; consider becoming an eco-church (this is a National Scheme). They will start with churchyard management first as there is already quite a bit going on. They plan a visit to each church by a member of their group to find out from the key folk in each place what already happens. To then offer help/advice as needed, including arranging some Saturday visits (open to anyone) to churchyards where there is particular expertise. Margaret also informed us that she is liaising with Bishop John as he is keen to encourage other deaneries to start environmental groups.

10. Any Questions – Liz Hassall had not received any. This item will be revisited later in the year – please be thinking if there is anything you (or your PCC) would like to know more about concerning church life, from parish to national level and send questions to Liz as you think of them.

11. Any Other business –

Admission of Churchwarden's service will be at Sutton on the Forest church on 14th May – please tell your churchwardens.

Margret Price has organised a series of speakers during Lent, starting on 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in Stillington Methodist Chapel, all are welcome.

Compline was led by Revd Margaret Young.

Easingwold were thanked for hosting us.

Future meetings (refreshments from 6.30 for 7pm start)

Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 Tollerton Church

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