

**Northern Ryedale Deanery Action Day**  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February at Middleton Village Hall.**

The day started full of promise and just got better and better. Twenty-five of us gathered at Middleton Village Hall representing every benefice, a mix of clergy and laity. We were made welcome by the Village Hall Committee with home cake and biscuits to accompany our morning coffee.

The focus of the day was a commitment to action. The Revd. Tim Robinson, our Rural Dean, emphasized that by the end of the day he was determined to have a range of projects identified, from the full spectrum of Deanery life, complete with outline strategies and timescales.

A short act of worship was followed by a little light-hearted ice-breaking activity, including lots laughter! Then there was a little gentle theology, supplemented by some Bible Study. The gathering was invited to consider, working in small groups, what was the most important activity for a Christian disciple: 'being or doing'. It was refreshing to debate and reflect with Synod members who perhaps in the past you have only had the chance to nod a quick greeting.

The atmosphere was electric, the discussion lively, a real sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit, guiding and challenging us. We came to a real sense of renewal and optimism that the Deanery is a lovely place to come together, and that with the rich abundance of gifts in our midst, we can with confidence proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to our neighbours.

Following an excellent lunch - a delicious and creative mix of Yorkshire sandwiches and exquisite Korean cooking, everyone was invited to join a working group of their choice, including justice, media and communication, telling story, worship, and fun and fellowship. Within an hour or so each group had at least one project to offer.

Watch this space, as the A170 weaves its way through our Deanery we are all going to be on a journey of worship, fellowship and fun. There are going to be so many events to enjoy, to be involved in and to invite our parishes and communities to. The action has been set in motion; do join us.

The Rev'd Susan Binks