

The Deanery Synod of Northern Ryedale

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEANERY SYNOD OF NORTHERN RYEDALE HELD MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 11TH JUNE 2015

Present:

Sheila Clayton Lay Chair
Ven Samantha Rushton
Archdeacon of Cleveland
Revd Tim Robinson Rural Dean
Revd Canon Francis Hewitt
Revd Stephen Gamble
Revd Lynn Grove
Revd Christopher Johnson
Peter Allen
Dr David Billett
Susan Binks
Helen Goodman
Eddie Gray
John Dunning
Chris Martin-Jones
Simon Mumford
Barbara Ralphs
Judith Short
Leslie Tucker
Ian Henley Sec

Apologies:

Revd Mark Brosnan
Revd Lynn Grove
Revd Stuart Hill
Revd Andrew de Smet
Revd Dr Jo White
Tony Gilham
Sally Gough
St John Harris
Tom Hustler
Mary Jones
Clarissa Napier
Robert Sword
Hilary Slights
Margaret Timbrell
Jane Wood

WELCOME

1. The Lay Chair thanked Middleton PCC for their excellent hospitality and welcomed the Venerable Samantha Rushton to the meeting.

ITEM 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th February 2015 were accepted as a true record.

ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING

3. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3. ADDRESS BY THE VEN SAMANTHA RUSHTON

4. Entitled "10 Things you didn't know about the new Archdeacon", the archdeacon provided a self-portrait enhanced by her vision for the archdeaconry.

5. She explained that she was from a rural farm background, had a degree in agriculture and forestry and had been a bank manager before ordination. She was well aware of the differences between urban and rural ministry. She didn't become a Christian until aged 30 and had started her Christian journey as a Sunday School teacher of 3-5 year olds. Married to a Reader and mother to 2 boys, she described her churchmanship as cautiously charismatic, but flexible and that the Anglican church could appear "weird" to those outside the church.

ACTION

6. Describing her theology as 'heroic', she proclaimed Jesus as Lord, that all things were possible through him but that discipleship, walking the way of the cross, meant giving up everything to follow him. This was almost impossible to achieve, but thanks to God's grace, we should not fear failure but should persevere. There was an on-going need for redemption, grace, forgiveness and resurrection, and a constant wrestling with God.

7. The archdeacon had been Director of Ordinands, Warden of Readers, and a Rural Dean while licensed to a 4 church benefice. She recognised that God called amazing people into the church as ministers, evangelists and leaders and recognised the distinctive value of readers and RPA's and the importance of team ministry. Strong vibrant, optimistic deaneries were vital to the success of the local and national church. The church was the Hope of the World but at times could be its own worst enemy as it struggled to cope with issues of sexual orientation and gender equality.

8. The archdeacon believed that she was a beloved child of God and that all Christians made up the Body of Christ. Acknowledging that she did not wish to focus on money, nevertheless money was tight and there was a clear need to make the most effective use of scarce resources. There was also a need to constantly reach out to the missing generations (those with little experience or knowledge of God or Church) and, at a personal level, seek to determine how the gospel related to oneself. She viewed deaneries as vital teams of active Christians, transformative and central to effective mission and ministry.

9. In answer to the question, "How will you find out how to operate in her new role" she said that she was able to rely on her own judgement, but would benefit from working with Bishop Paul. She would concentrate on developing her relationships with Rural Deans and Churchwardens. She acknowledged that mission need not be confined within deanery boundaries and that there was benefit in reaching and sharing beyond them.

10. There then followed a period of discussion within small groups in which members shared their own journeys of faith.

11. The Chair thanked the archdeacon for sharing her journey and her vision for the future.

ITEM 4. FINANCE

12. **DFA.** The Rural Dean explained that the DFA had recently resigned and that a new DFA was being sought.

13. **Treasurer.** There was £2900 in the bank. Parish subscriptions to the deanery had been set the same as the previous year. Financial support was given to teenagers (Lightwater Valley), Wydale Hall (£250), admin support for the Rural Dean and deanery expenses.

ITEM 5. ELECTION OF LAY CHAIR, SECRETARY AND TREASURER

14. The Chair explained that she had been lay chair of the deanery and its predecessor - Pickering Deanery - for a total of 18 years and that although she had accepted election as Chair again last year, she had made it clear she was not prepared to continue for the full 3 year term. She thanked everyone for their kind support over the years.

15. The following members were elected into post unopposed and unanimously:

- a. Lay Chairman: Ian Henley.
- b. Secretary: St John Harris.
- c. Treasurer: Helen Goodman.

16. Following the election, the Rural Dean thanked Sheila Clayton for her chairmanship and Sheila handed over chairmanship of the meeting to the newly elected Lay Chair.

ITEM 6. RURAL DEAN'S NOTES

17. The Rural Dean made the following points:

- a. Thanks were due to the parishes for their contributions to the Common Fund.
- b. The family day "Pentecost Fire" had been a great success. There had been a glorious Christian atmosphere in which 77 young people and their parents had thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks were due to the organisers for organising such an uplifting day, which had appealed not only to active Christians but others as well.
- c. He would work with Claire Haines, local representative of the Royal School of Church Music. More musical events were planned for the deanery.
- d. Father Antony Pritchett was on sabbatical.
- e. It was hoped that a priest in charge would be appointed for Lastingham by the end of the year. The congregation was in good heart and excited about the future. The present vicarage was being separated into a parish centre and a House for Duty.
- f. Because Sue Binks was not yet ordained, she could not be elected to Diocesan Synod. However, there was no reason that she could not be co-opted once ordained.
- g. Discussions on developing the deaneries would take place at the next deanery synod. The Secretary would circulate relevant papers with the meeting minutes.
- h. Members were asked to pray for Susan Binks who was to be ordained on 5th July at 10 am in York Minster.
- j. A Summer BBQ would be held at Pickering Church on Saturday 11th July from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Tickets (£7 adults, £3.50 under 16's) from fr.christopher.johnson@gmail.com. Proceeds in aid of Pickering Church.

Sec

ITEM 7. DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

18. The synod had been a lively and interesting forum with a lot of discussion. The Archbishop's address had focussed on prayer in which the value of quiet reflection was emphasised. It was also emphasised that evangelism should be a joy and delight.

19. The Rural Dean had been elected Diocesan Synod Chair of Clergy and Dr Nick Land as Chair of Laity. There was a lot said about money – York Minster had contributed funds to the Diocese. There had been reports on Clergy Pay and Pensions, from the Property Sub Committee, Board of Education, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and a General Synod Report. A Deaneries Working Group had been established to develop a vision of what deaneries could be. Its initial proposals would be brought to Synod in May 2016.

20. The Archbishop had met with all Deanery Lay Chairs and emphasised the need to rejuvenate the deaneries. There was a need to get on with it.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21. Fracking.

a. There was concern that the Church of England had not involved itself in the debate over the issue of fracking. The “Our Grandchildren’s Future” section of the letter from the House of Bishops to the people and parishes of the Church of England for the General Election 2015 stated that there was a need “... to cherish the created order rather than viewing our environment as a commodity to be consumed.” There was strong feeling that the environment was under threat if fracking were to take place. This was particularly felt in Kirby Misperton, where Third Energy had applied for a licence to drill.

b. Most felt that a letter should be written to the Diocese inviting the Diocesan Synod to debate the issue and come up with a public statement on the subject. A small number felt that the subject was best left to local government.

c. It was proposed that “The Deanery write to the Diocesan Synod expressing its concern at the threat to the environment from fracking and invite the Diocesan Synod to debate and determine a view on that threat.” The proposal was carried by 15 votes to three.

Lay Chair

ITEM 7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

22. The next Synod was planned to take place on Thursday 15th October, venue to be determined.

Distribution

Ven Samantha Rushton
All Synod Members



Ian Henley
Sec (outgoing)