

The Deanery Synod of Northern Ryedale

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KIRKBYMOORSIDE AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017

Present		Apologies
Revd Tim Robinson	Area Dean in the Chair	Robert Sword
Ian Henley	Lay Dean	Jane Wood
Revd Sue Binks		Honor Wright
Revd Mark Brosnan		
Revd Stuart Hill		
Fr Antony Pritchett		
Revd Andrew de Smet		
Rt Revd Dr John Thomson	Bishop of Selby	
Peter Allen		
Andy Bowden		
Jo Bowden		
John Castle		
Annika Dawson		
John Dunning		
Tony Gillham		
Helen Goodman		
David Goodman		
Eddie Gray		
Judith Gubbins		
Ali Holmes		
Mary Jones		
David Knowelden		
Mike Linskill		
Veronica Linskill		
Chris Martin-Jones		
Simon Mumford		
Clarissa Napier		
Barbara Ralphs		
Brenda Robinson		
Mike Sellers		
Jill Simpson		
Hilary Slights		
Mike Stallybrass		
Margaret Timbrell		
St John Harris	Secretary	

WELCOME

The Area Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting including guest speaker, the Bishop of Selby, Rt Revd Dr John Thomson for the main item of business: Rural Life and Faith.

1. Election of the Lay Dean by the House of Laity

Wg Cdr Ian Henley was proposed, seconded and duly elected as the Lay Dean.

2.

(i) Apologies

See above.

(ii) Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017 and matters arising

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2017 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

(iii) Area Dean's Notes including the new Diocesan Vision for Deaneries

The Area Dean reminded the meeting of the new Diocesan Vision for Deaneries and how this was being implemented in Northern Ryedale. A new Deanery Leadership Team was being established to support mission, ministry and training across the Deanery; for this reason, he would like every benefice to be represented on the DLT through both election and co-option.

Children's and Youth Work Consultants for the Cleveland Archdeaconry, Andy and Jo Bowden then addressed the meeting about the Deanery Family Day they were helping to organise at Welburn Hall on 11 June, the St Hilda's family pilgrimage from 30 August to 2 September 2017, their wish for an under 18s champion to be part of the DLT, and their offer of support to the benefices to help them engage with children and young people.

The Deanery Treasurer, Mrs Goodman then reminded the meeting about the painting competition being held in schools across the Deanery, the winners of which would be announced at the Family Fun Day in Gillamoor on 2 September 2017. She circulated an information pack about these events encouraging those present to get involved. Mrs Goodman also advised that annual parish subscriptions to the Deanery were now due and envelopes had been provided for collection. A summary of the Deanery's accounts for 2016/17 was also available for collection.

Also on the subject of finances, the Area Dean reminded the meeting of the importance of the Freewill Offer to be decided by parishes for 2018 given the financial needs of the Deanery and Diocese, and the Lay Dean, member of the Financial Sustainability Working Group, encouraged members to come up with ideas on how to increase financial support for the Diocese through patronage and other ways.

3. Election of the Lay Member and Clergy Member of the Deanery Leadership Team and of the Treasurer and Deanery Secretary

The following were proposed, seconded and duly elected:

Lay Member – Mrs Honor Wright

Clergy Member – Fr Antony Pritchett

Treasurer – Mrs Helen Goodman

Deanery Secretary – Mr St John Harris

4. Rural life and faith

In his presentation, the Bishop of the Selby outlined the anxieties of rural life and church communities – for example, the demographic changes, decline in public services, loss of amenities, and for the church, managing multi-church parishes with stretched clergy, and aging and small congregations. He contrasted these with the blessings of rural life and church communities – for example, that rural areas were generally good places to live with more cohesion and social capital than urban areas, and that the rural church was pastorally embedded in the community with a visible presence, better ecumenical co-operation, and strong links with church schools. He urged those present to place their

trust in God, and following Luther's advice to 'let the birds be your theologians', to work, but not worry, building on the already strong Christian witness in rural areas. He gave examples of recovering churches such as Emley Moor, and set this work within the context of the four Diocesan goals and the four objectives of the Rural Task and Finish Group, namely: growing existing and new communities of faith and worship; enabling discipleship, ministry and leadership to flourish; wise and fruitful use of material resources; and enhancing and developing engagement with families and schools. He referred to the financial challenges facing the Diocese, not least the changes to the Church Commissioners' funding model, but commented that under the new model, the Commissioners were likely to support imaginative projects that helped the church to grow.

The Bishop then took questions from the floor on the challenge of continuing to support the church and its buildings with typically small congregations of older people, and on progress with the Deanery Synod's motion dating from June 2015 which had invited the Diocesan Synod to determine a view on the threat to the environment posed by fracking. In reply, Bishop John reiterated the importance of generous giving since money was instrumental in mission, but also of reaching out to people and growing the church in new ways, as exemplified by the Archbishop of York's recent pilgrimage and mission. He acknowledged the predominance of older people in rural areas and church congregations, this was true of society in general, but commended the work of youth workers such as the Bowdens, and noted that more younger people were coming forward for ordination in rural areas. He saw green shoots while mindful of the challenges he had already described. In respect of fracking, the Bishop noted that this was a contentious and emotive subject which divided opinion among members of the Church of England; however, the Church's latest position on the subject was outlined in a Briefing Paper dated December 2016 from the Church's Mission and Public Affairs Council and the Environment Working Group. In the context of the Government's public commitment to the Paris Climate Change Agreement of December 2015, the Paper recognised that shale gas could be an acceptable and potentially useful element in achieving a transition to a much lower carbon economy, provided it was not used as an alibi to duck carbon reduction commitments, and was subject to robust regulatory controls and robust local planning and decision-making processes. The Paper was very much offered as a resource for ongoing, evidence-based discussion, and it was in this spirit, that the Bishop invited local anti-fracking activists and others to submit their views to the Church's Director of Mission and Public Affairs, Revd Dr Malcolm Brown.

5. Any other business

None was raised.

6. Arrangements for next meeting

The next meeting of the Synod was arranged for Thursday, 28 September 2017 at Middleton Village Hall at 7pm. This would be a consultative meeting on the development of the new Vision and ways of working across the Deanery.

In addition, a Bring and Share meal had been arranged for Thursday, 6 July 2017 at Helmsley Town Hall. Guest speaker: Adam Collier.

The meeting closed with prayers led by the Area Dean.