

The Deanery Synod of Northern Ryedale

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN OSWALDKIRK VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2015

Present

Ian Henley
Revd Tim Robinson
Revd Sue Binks
Revd Susan Bond
Revd Mark Brosnan
Revd Antony Pritchett
Revd Dr Jo White
Peter Allen
Dr David Billett
Sheila Clayton
Helen Goodman
Eddie Gray
Vivienne Hughes
Mike Linskill
Veronica Linskill
Chris Martin-Jones
Simon Mumford
Clarissa Napier
Jeff Piercey
Alan Rabjohn
Brenda Robinson
Hilary Slights
Margaret Timbrell
St John Harris

Lay Chair
Rural Dean in the Chair

Secretary

Apologies

Revd Canon Francis Hewitt
Revd Lynn Grove
Revd Christopher Johnson
Revd Andrew de Smet
John Dunning
Tony Gillham
Sally Gough
Dr David Knowelden
Caroline Peall-Clegg
Freda Shaw
Judith Short
Robert Sword
Lesley Tucker
Jane Wood

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYERS

The Rural Dean thanked Oswaldkirk PCC for their hospitality and led opening prayers.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 June 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

An update was provided on Item 6, Any Other Business, Fracking. The Lay Chair confirmed that he had written to the Diocesan Secretary, Canon Peter Warry, relating the Deanery Synod's concerns at the threat to the environment from fracking. The Rural Dean added that the issue had been scheduled for debate at Diocesan Synod in May 2016, by which time a fuller report on fracking from the Church of England was expected. The Rural Dean also referred to the Archbishop of York's response to a parishioner from Helmsley, reassuring her that the Church was keeping a close interest in the debate, in particular through the Bishops of London and Chester, the lead bishops on environmental matters. There was some frustration expressed at the meeting at the Church's slow progress in reaching a position on fracking, especially for an area such as Ryedale where the matter was of pressing importance. Reference was also made to local MP, Kevin

Hollinrake's recent fact-finding visit to Pennsylvania, USA, and the subsequent meeting he had organised in the locality.

3. Developing Our Deaneries Vision Document

The Lay Chair introduced the Developing Our Deaneries Vision Document which sought to reinvigorate deaneries in enabling and resourcing mission and ministry, overseeing strategy and developing supportive relationships under the vision of: 'a network of churches, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry locally. He also alluded to the Bishop of Croydon's report on the strategic role of deaneries and their need 'to develop as units for mission and theological reflection.' The Bishop poses the key question: 'is our church a touching place between people and God or an institution of structures?' The meeting divided into groups to consider each of the three consultation questions in turn, and then report back to the floor. The responses are summarised below:

How might you respond to the vision for the development of our deaneries?

- With ambivalence.
- Good for enabling mission.
- With hope.
- Cautious welcome.
- Natural evolution.
- Needs spadework.

What would your deanery need to fulfil such a vision?

- Open to diversity of liturgy
- Listening
- Strategy needed
- Requiring resources
- Persistence
- People
- Variety of worship
- Increase in energy, clergy, human resources, finance
- Development of inter-dependence.

What might restrict your deaneries from fulfilling such a vision?

- Diverse character of communities (i.e. Market towns, villages, hamlets)
- Geography – a long deanery (34 miles long)
- Co-ordination across Deanery
- Lack of parish plans
- Commitment of parishioners
- Tensions – what is the parish for?

Action: the Rural Dean to submit the Deanery Synod's response to the Vision to the Deaneries Working Group

4. A Vision for the Northern Ryedale Deanery

The Lay Chair then presented his own personal response to the consultation (appended to these minutes and endorsed by the Rural Dean)

Action: all present to share this Vision with their PCCs

5. Rural Dean's Notes

The Rural Dean made the following points:

- He welcomed Revd Sue Binks to her first Deanery Synod meeting since her ordination
- Th Rt Revd Bill Godfrey, Bishop of Peru, had been appointed as the new Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice of Lastingham
- He reported very favourably on a four day conference he had attended 'Leading Your Church into Growth'. The conference had focused on advancing the Diocesan Vision of 'Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples' through lay and clergy working together to create a culture of invitation reinforced by achievable aims.
- The Diocesan Synod representatives for the new triennium were:
Laitie – Sheila Clayton, Helen Goodman, Ian Henley, Freda Shaw
Clergy – Sue Binks, Christopher Johnson, Tim Robinson
- He suggested a Deanery Action Day to develop a plan for the Deanery including the formation of different working groups: pastoral, worship and training. This was arranged for Saturday, 13 February 2016. Venue and further details to be confirmed.
- Deanery events already planned were The King's Banquet on 12 June 2016, a Tea dance in September, and a Prayer and praise day in October. Revd Sue Binks would be hosting a meeting of a task group to consider Deanery days on 7 January 2016
- Other events:
21 October 2015 – Bishop of Hull at Helmsley Church – 6pm Evensong, followed by refreshments and talk and Q&A
3 December 2015 – Deanery Renewal Service at Thornton-le-Dale Church at 7.30pm. Preacher- Bishop of Whitby
12-17 January 2016 – Archbishop of York would be passing through Northern Ryedale as part of his pilgrimage through the Diocese
Sunday, 3 July 2016 – Ecumenical and regional celebration at Rievaulx Abbey from 6pm onwards

6. Any Other Business

The Lay Chair demonstrated the new Deanery website he was developing to facilitate the sharing of useful information across the Deanery.

7. Arrangements for next meeting

Deanery Action Day – Saturday, 13 February 2016. Further details to be confirmed.

The next meeting of the Synod arranged for Thursday, 10 March 2016 at Lastingham Church at 7pm. Guest speaker: Dean of York Minster

The meeting closed with prayers led by Revd Susan Bond.