

STOKESLEY DEANERY In the Diocese of York

Minutes of the Deanery Synod held at St Margaret, Brookfield,
Tuesday 6th June 2023, 7.30 pm.

Attendees: Clergy: Revds. Tessa Stephens (Area Dean) Darren Moore, Brenda Forrester, Robert Opala, Jane Robson, Geoff Jaques, Laura Wild, Ben Gunter, Kate Brown, Anne Heading, **Lay:** John Dickinson (Lay Dean) David Local, Liz Taylorson, Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes, Judy Hall, Jane Kitching, Frances Brown, Ken Taylor, Bob Ardley, Julia Ardley, Sarah Weyell, Carol McGee, Jenny James, David Hand, Astrid Wood, David Heading, Haley Durant, Sally Hamlin. **Guests:** John Stinson.

1. Welcome and Prayers (Revd. Tessa Stephens, Area Dean)

Thanks to those who provided drinks and cakes! New members introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence

Margaret Lawrance, Christine Young, Roy Parsonage, Alicia Lightfoot, David Yates, David Haworth, Revd. Paul Peverell, Revd. Jon Dean.

3. Minutes of last meeting (February 8th 2023)

Accepted without corrections. Subsequent corrections received and spellings of Revds. Geoff Jaques and Paul Peverell now corrected.

4. Developments around the Deanery – Carousel Conversations in small groups.

- John Stinson (St. Oswalds, Newton-Under-Roseberry) **Creating a church eco-culture.** Ways in which St. Oswald's Church is becoming more eco-conscious.
- Revd. Darren Moore and David Local (St. Mary Magdalene, Yarm) **Mission based PCC.** How the whole congregation were included in the decision making for the parish.
- John Dickinson (Christ Church, Great Ayton) **Time to dream.** If your church had a significant donation, what would be top of the parish wishlist?

5. Deanery Update

- 1) **Appointments and welcome services (AD):** Revd. Jane Robson has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Kirkleatham. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Whitby at St Hilda, Kirkleatham at 3.00pm on Sunday, 16 July 2023. Revd. Laura Wild has been appointed as Vicar of Brookfield and of Stainton with Hemlington and Hilton. She will be collated by the Bishop of Whitby in St Margaret of Scotland, Brookfield, Middlesbrough at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 27 June 2023.
- 2) **Visitation update (AD):** A few visitations have already taken place. A note for Churchwardens – all silver needs to be removed from the safe and all accompanying paperwork provided, to allow for more time for discussion. A question was asked about the need to provide fragile original paperwork which might be damaged in transfer, and suggested that scans/photographs would be acceptable.

3) Deanery Service at All Saints, Great Ayton, September 3rd and pilgrimage (LD)

A pilgrimage following the river from Stokesley to Great Ayton will leave Stokesley at 2.15 to reach All Saints for refreshments at 3.30. The open-air service will be at 4 pm.

4) Living Christ's Story (LCS) update (LD). It is eleven months since the plan for LCS was agreed and submitted. There has been no formal response from the Diocese although we have been asked to move forward. Active leadership and direction from the Diocese looks unlikely. As we move forward, parishes are at different stages of engagement with LCS, and we need to agree what actions and resources will be needed and how success will be measured. A one-day session for Deaneries, hosted by Sam Nichol (Director for Strategic Transformation) will be held on 26th June at the Diocesan office. The Lay Dean will attend and one other space is available to anyone who would like to attend. (Contact Lay Dean jgdickinson@outlook.com)

6. Finance Update (Bob Ardley, Treasurer)

- The Current Account balance on 4.6.2023 was £3199.53
- 15 (out of 20) parishes have paid the Deanery levy for 32 out of the allowed 38 lay reps. Reminders will be sent imminently.
- DLT expenditure: £96.70 for *How do Rural Churches Thrive* books. £453 to reimburse Nunthorpe PCC for the Deanery Secretary's pay (to 31.08.2023) over and above that paid for by the Diocese.
- Book grants of £45 will be distributed to lay readers on Readers' Day, 17th June. Please cash all cheques as quickly as possible.
- In recognition of the support given by Recognised Parish Assistants (RPAs) Synod has agreed book grants of £45 to RPAs who migrate to become Authorised Lay Ministers by Autumn 2023. Please inform bob.ardley@ntlworld.com of the names and contact details for the ALMs in their Ministry Units and book grant cheques will be issued.

7. Deanery Financial Advisor (DFA) Update (Ken Taylor, DFA) including submission of accounts to Diocese.

- Ken has now met nearly all Treasurers – thanks for their hard work. At the Treasurers' meeting, 9 parishes were represented.
- Interest was shown in grants, particularly the Benefact Trust building improvement grant (full details on Diocesan Website).
- The Diocese has 70 card readers available to parishes who don't currently have digital giving – please act quickly if you would like one.
- Free Will Offer – most parishes are paid up-to-date, except one parish which has issues with a bank account. All accounts are due to be submitted to the Diocese by the end of June. 9 parishes are complete, 5 more in progress.

8. Secretary request for Electoral Roll forms and synod membership – (Liz Taylorson, secretary).

Electoral roll forms to be sent to Liz and to Kirsty.mccullough@yorkdiocese.org as soon as possible, please. Liz needs details now of new and continuing lay synod reps. for period beginning July 2023.

9. What's on around the deanery

- 1) Mothers' Union Festival. All clergy and lay readers are invited to Stokesley Deanery annual Mothers' Union Festival Service on Wednesday 12th July, St. Francis of Assisi, Ingelby Barwick, 7.00 pm. A talk will be given by Revd. Bill Dewing.
- 2) Churchwardens' Admission Service will take place on Thursday 22nd June, 7 pm, in Stokesley Parish Church, conducted by the Archbishop of York.
- 3) A half day safeguarding training session, provided by the Diocesan Training team and organised by Mark Sutcliffe, will take place on Friday 1st September, time TBC, at Ingleby Greenhow Village Hall. Ideal for those who are not on line and would benefit from face-to-face training.
- 4) Choral Evensong at Christ Church, Great Ayton. Sunday 18th June at 4 pm.

10. AOB and date of next meeting

- 1) **Next Synod:** Wednesday 18th October, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Kirkby-in-Cleveland Church Hall.

11. Closing Prayers

Stokesley Deanery Synod meeting 8th February 2023

Treasurer's Report

Thanks

We offer our thanks to Sally Hamlin, DS Rep from Hilton, for undertaking the informal examination of the Deanery Accounts for 2022.

Account Balance

The Current Account opening balance on 1st January 2023 was **£2,469.23**

Deanery Income

At the 2023 APCM Parishes will elect (new) Deanery Synod Reps for the 2023-2026 triennium, to take office from 1st July 2023.

Because of a small increase in Electoral Roll numbers at the 2022 APCMs Parishes will be allowed in total 38 DS Reps for the new session (there were up to 36 DS Reps allowed for the 2020-2023 session).

The DLT proposes keeping the Parish Deanery Levy for 2023 at £40 per Rep allowed which is unchanged from last year.

Deanery Expenditure

The DLT propose making "Book Grants" of £45 in 2023 to each of the 8 Lay Readers in the Deanery, unchanged from last year.

In addition, in recognition of the support given by Recognised Parish Assistants (RPAs), the DLT propose making similar “Book Grants” of £45 in 2023 to those active RPAs in the Deanery who migrate to being Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs) by the Autumn of 2023 (at which point the designation RPA will cease). The Budget allows for “Book Grants” to 8 ALMs.

The DLT acknowledges the increasing time that the Nunthorpe Parish Secretary spends on Deanery business over and above the initially allocated one-hour per week; hence the 2023 Budget allocates £520 to pay for an additional one-hour per week for Admin/Secretarial support.

The DLT proposes no longer making a Grant/Donation to Wydale Hall; instead, for 2023 onwards, the DLT proposes allocating in the Budget the sum of £400 towards a Deanery Event – for example a “Quiet Day” - to be held at Wydale Hall

Bob Ardley

Deanery Treasurer