

STOKESLEY DEANERY In the Diocese of York

Minutes of the Deanery Synod held at Christ Church, Great Ayton Wednesday, 7th February 7.30 pm.

Attendees: Clergy: Revds. Tessa Stephens (Area Dean) Kate Brown, Jon Dean, Brenda Forrester, Geoff Jaques, Robert Opala, Paul Peverell, Nik Stevenson, **Lay:** John Dickinson (Lay Dean), Liz Taylorson (Secretary) Bob Ardley (Treasurer), Ken Taylor (DFA) Frances Brown, Sally Hamlin, Margaret Lawrance, Judy Hall, Linda Wells, Sarah Weyell, Roy Parsonage, David Haworth, Astrid Wood, Haley Durant, Christine Young, Richard Besford, Jenny James, David Hand, Avril Rhodes, John Rhodes, David Local, Nick Land. **Guests:** David Young,

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

2. Apologies for absence

Clergy: Revds. Ben Gunter, Anne Heading, Darren Moore, Laura Wild. **Lay:** Carol McGee, Linda King, Linda Smith, Julia Ardley, Diana Baker, David Yates.

3. Minutes of last meeting (October 18th 2023)

Accepted

4. Accounts and Budget 2024 (Bob Ardley)

- **Accounts:** The Current Account balance on 1st Jan 2023 was £2,469.23 and on 31st Dec 2023 was £2,435.63. The Accounts have been “informally examined” by Sally Hamlin, DS Rep for Hilton Parish (many thanks to Sally and her husband Rod)
- **Income** of £1,480.00 was received from Parish Treasurers as Deanery Levy payments covering 37 of 38 Synod Reps. There was one debtor; one Parish has not yet paid their Deanery Levy (£40 for one DS Rep) for 2023 in spite of being chased three times - a further request for this payment will be made at the time of the request for the 2024 Levy payment.
- **Expenditure:** The main items of expenditure comprise: £679.50 to reimburse Nunthorpe PCC for the Deanery Secretary’s pay (to 31/12/2023) over and above that paid for by the Diocesan grant. “Book Grants” of £45 totalling £675.00 made to eight Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and seven Authorised Lay Ministers with all cheques cashed by the end of the year.
- **Budget:** The Deanery budget for 2024, was proposed at DLT meeting on 9th Jan 2024. Deanery Secretary’s pay: £850.00. Deanery Secretary’s pay has been paid by Nunthorpe PCC and recharged to the Deanery. Annual Diocesan grants of £500.00 have been received for the period Sept 2021-Aug 2024 as a contribution towards the cost of the Secretary’s pay, covering a nominal 50 hours at £10.00 per hour. No further such Diocesan grants can be expected and the Deanery will need to cover fully the Secretary’s pay from 1st Sept 2024 onwards. DLT agreed to increase the Secretary’s hours to 2hrs/week from 1st Jan 2023. Deanery Admin Costs: £930.00 In addition to the £850.00 for the Secretary’s pay we set aside £80 to cover DLT members’ expenses. Deanery Event: £400.00. We set aside a nominal £400 to fund a Deanery Event, eg a Quiet Day at Wydale Hall.

Deanery IT costs: £65 This is to cover the website hosting (by “Wordpress”) and domain name registration. Deanery LLM/ALM Book Grants: £675.00, the 15 Book Grants to continue for 2024 at £45 per Lay Minister.

- **Parish Deanery Levy income:** It is proposed to increase the Parish Deanery Levy to £50.00 per DS Rep allowed (irrespective of how many Reps a Parish appoints). The previous Levy of £40 per DS Rep has been unchanged for the past five years; the increase is required now to partially cover the increased cost of Deanery Secretary’s pay given the likely withdrawal of the Diocesan Grant.
- **Acceptance** proposed – David Haworth: Seconded - Rev. Brenda Forrester. Unanimously accepted.

Roy Parsonage proposed many thanks to Bob.

5. Deanery Financial Advisor (DFA) update (Ken Taylor):

- Thank you to all parishes who have now submitted their Freewill Offers for 2024. Diocesan office requests that parishes set up Standing Orders for payments, to be arranged directly with their bank and no need to send to Diocesan Office as in previous years.
- As Annual Parish Meetings begin, please submit Return of Parish Finance and PCC approved accounts no later than **28th June**. Please send 1 copy of accounts by e-mail to the Diocese via finance@yorkdiocese.org.
- Diocese has opened a fund to provide grants of up to £10,000 for urgent projects identified in quinquennial inspections. Details are on the Diocesan website, but the fund is not big so apply quickly.

6. Election of a new Diocesan Synod Rep to replace Revd. Jane Robson

Revd. Tessa Stephens proposed by Revd. Paul Peverell and seconded by Revd. Jon Dean. Unanimously elected by all clergy present.

7. Arrivals and Farewells:

- Revd. Vanessa Kirkby, currently curate at Grove Hill, has been appointed Pioneer Minister at Brookfield Plurality. Her licensing service will take place on Palm Sunday (24th March), 2.30 at Stainton.
- This is the last Synod for Revd. Robert Opala, who will be moving to Ormesby after 7 years at the Whorlton Benefice. Our prayers and thanks go with him.

8. Carousel Conversations – an opportunity to find out more about some new initiatives in the deanery.

- Revd. Kate Brown. **Messy Church.** A chance to learn more about a successful Messy Church service at Kirklevington, to find out what Messy Church is – and what it isn’t – and see some of the activities the group undertakes.
- John Dickinson – **Technology for churches.** Unless we keep up with the correct technology it will be increasingly difficult to function effectively, particularly with younger people. It’s important to understand the needs in the deanery, such as back office, communications, support in worship. The Diocese has resources available to help and we want to focus forthcoming discussions with the Diocesan representative.

- Revd. Geoff Jaques **Let's talk about food.** Geoff Jaques gave us an early opportunity to experience a new Diocesan resource "Let's talk about Food" prepared by the Rural Life and Faith Group as part of a pilot programme before finalising it for publication later in the year. He invited members to identify small groups within their communities who would be interested in using this material to raise awareness of the complex interactions between Food, Farming and the Environment. Please email Geoff at jaques132@gmail.com if you have a local group in mind.
- Nick Land **Prayers of Love and Faith.** PCCs will soon have to address the issues raised by the new prayers for blessing same sex relationships. This introduction is to be an explanation of what is authorized – and what isn't. Noted that what is now the case may well change after the next General Synod. To be discussed in a spirit of understanding that others will have different, and strongly held, opinions on this topic.

9. What's on around the deanery

- **Festival Teesside – Revd. Brenda Forrester.** Churches Together have a planned event for Stewart Park, 8th and 9th June. This event will involve events for families, sports, prayer, music and food – all free except the food. In advance of the big day there will be a prayer event at the Globe, Stockton on 27th April and opportunity to receive evangelism training between 13th and 17th May. Volunteers are needed for car parking, litter picking etc., and partner churches to help in mission work. Anyone expressing an interest in attending a church during the event will be matched to local churches involved. There will be women's events and men's events (involving fire ...) The event has a budget of £1/3 million, and involvement from American volunteers. If you would like to know more about this exciting event, Brenda has more information.
- **Café Magdalene – John Rhodes.** Café Magdalene at Yarm had a successful (though hectic!) official opening at the beginning of December. Christmas then halted the café, but it was opened in earnest in January – it isn't about money but mission, bringing people in and taking the opportunity to talk about church activities. The first month of proper operation has gone well.
- **Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Avril Rhodes.** Revd. Darren Moore has arranged a pilgrimage to the shrine at Walsingham, for 5 days beginning on 30th September. This has been so popular that it is already full!
- **Lent courses:**
 - Nunthorpe:** *Rhythm of Life* lent course to be run on Wednesday evenings during Lent– including the theme of 'rest' to be covered in Holy Week.
 - Brookfield Plurality:** *Healing and Hope* from the charity *Embrace the Middle East* to be run on Tuesdays 20th & 27th Feb, 5th, 12th and 19th March at 2pm St. Peter & St. Paul, Stainton - Church Parish Room and 7pm St. Margaret's Brookfield - Church Hall Lounge.
 - Great Ayton:** *You can be serious* by Bishop David Wilbourne will take place at various churches in Great Ayton – and the Royal Oak pub! Sessions begin on 19th February and finish on 18th March.

[Stokesley – not mentioned at the Synod, but for information, a Lent course is listed on Stokesley church website, Tuesday afternoons at 1.30 beginning on 20th February]

10. AOB and date of next meeting

- **AOB: Nick Land** has been elected as a Church Commissioner, and will be serving on the Bishops and Cathedrals Subcommittee.
- **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, 4th June 2024 at St. Francis, Ingleby Barwick.

11. Closing Prayers

Liz Taylorson. 14.2.24

