

Diocesan Synod Report 16/3/19

A moment of silent prayer was observed for the family of Caroline Mockford, the Diocesan Registrar, who dies recently.

- 1) Presidential address centred upon us becoming more Godly in God's places, and a Video clip of what a church centred on Mission looked like rather than a church centred on the buildings (The video can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJWkQ9UP_m8)
- 2) The new Dean of the Minster, The Rt Revd Dean Jonathan Frost, was made an Assistant Bishop
- 3) Bishop of Whitby spoke on Moving Forward in Joy and Hope.

Reaching - 20-40s and People In Poverty: Revd Richard White Director of Making and Nurturing Disciples spoke about 20-40s (now a full team recruiting 13 new ministers with over £3m in funding from the Church Commissioners Strategic Investment Board.) Hull, Ingleby Barwick, Malton, York, and Selby re filled or on offer but more to come. A 20-40's roadshow will be coming round to deanery synods and a new website 'Multiply' to be launched in May. Funding for PiP however, has now been delayed for six months.

Growing – Distinctive Deacons: Revd Matthew Pollard spoke about the ordination of 17 Deacons were licensed (previously Readers – NB Revd Margaret Hall from West Buckrose was one of them. (NB - Readers calling is about Teaching whereas Deacon's role is taking the church outside – Missional)

Sustaining – Generous Giving: Ven Sam Rushden spoke about the Generous Giving Team. They have visited most Deanery Leadership Teams or Chapters and are looking at offering Parish Support (working with 13 parishes across the Diocese) and Development Days (that's what our Deanery will be doing). They are looking to work with one parish in each deanery, as word of mouth in what they can achieve can be shared. Some good work has been done already in increasing the sustainability of parish giving. Good materials are available and each Parish is invited to approach the Team for advice and support. Also looking at a more consistent Data Giving through the Parish Returns.

Sustaining – Support for Parishes: Ven Andy Broom spoke about Enabling Mission, Supporting Relationships and Resourcing Mission. "A local network of churches inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry". Good news is the increase in the amount of Lay involvement in these areas.

Communications Officer Martin Shepherd spoke of a proposed Roadshow of Diocesan Officers to help parishes understand what the Diocesan Office does and how they can help us. Details to follow.

- 4) Children and Youth: Carolyn Edwards, Diocesan C&Y Advisor. Speciality is Children's Spirituality. Research proven 40% of active Christians became Christian under 5 years old. 95% of C&Y people have no connection with church. 2017 weekly church attendance is 25,400 of which 15% are under 17. That = 1% of young people in our diocese. They will be working closely with the new 20-40's communities, recognising that many in that age-group have families. The team acknowledge the good news that has been done and the challenges that have faced the diocese. They want to build up a database of relevant contacts. Looking to build up a support network around the diocese. Training to be offered. Information packs will be sent out. We only reach 1% of under 17s in our Diocese - Jesus left the 99 to go and seek the 1.

5) Come and See – York Diocesan Mission: Revd John Day and Revd Gavin Wakefield spoke about the 8th Northern Bishops Mission Thurs 12/3 – Sun 15/3 2020 – all about Celebrating and Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Probably working in Deaneries/clusters of local churches; each Deanery to receive about 2 Bishops with 3 or 4 members per Bishop (totalling 6-8 people). A LOCAL programme to be created by DLT/Parish.

6) Finance Updates and Projections: Peter Warry, Diocesan Secretary:

2018 headlines:

Budget – Exp = £14.05m Inc = £13.37m Drawdown from Reserves = £685k

Actual – Exp = £13.58m Inc = £13.12m Drawdown from Reserves = £458k

Pre balance sheet adjustments for clergy pensions and unrealised Investments gains/loses

Readily realisable reserves = £7.75m

2019 Current position:

£8,025,000 FWO pledged by parishes – down on both 2018 and budget but a number of PCCs who made no offer are contributing.

£1,243,000 of FWO received.

Investments recovered to Nov 2018m levels – but who knows what will happen post Brexit (?)

Expenses are being controlled and on track.

Significant capital activity re provision of housing for strategic posts notably the 20-40s Ministers (funded by property no longer in use for ministry).

Key Financial appointments made – new Chair of DBF = Rodney Barton; Katherine Trose to be Director of Finance in May.

FWO for 2020 Deadline = 30th September 2019 (NB FWO form will be on the Diocesan Website in due course)

7) General Synod Report given by Dr Nick Land on the February Synod

Presidential Address, the Archbishop of Canterbury

- “I urge you to consider giving up cynicism and renewing love for those with whom you and I differ. It is not easy. Some of them have views we find so obnoxious that we wish they were not in the church...Yet they and we are equally loved by God in Christ...Yes, we argue. Yes, we fail. Yes, we disagree about inclusion and we let people down and we mess up, but do not leave the wonderful work of the spirit of God out of the equation.”

Synod approves greater service flexibility for benefices

- Priests with oversight of multiple churches no longer have to get permission from their bishop not to hold a service in each church every Sunday.

Synod backs the setting up of a homeless task force

- The task force will work in partnership with statutory and other agencies. It is designed to make better use of Church resources whether financial, buildings or volunteers to provide shelter and support for the most vulnerable.

There was a presentation on new pastoral principles for welcoming LGBTI+

- There are six principles and they have emerged out of Living in Love and Faith project and the work of the Pastoral Advisory Group.

Synod steps up environment work

- Every Diocese is to have an environmental programme with a designated member of Bishop's staff team to lead and advocate for the programme.

Synod commends resources to help families pray at home

- As part of Growing Faith (GS2121), hundreds of thousands of school children will receive a free 'prayer map' as part of a new national commitment to children and young people's ministry designed to revolutionise our work in this area.

Synod backs drive to create new churches on estates

- Noting the historic marginalisation of social housing estates in the policies of both church and nation, Synod committed the Church to ensuring a Christian presence in every significant estate in the country.

A vision of hope, mission and ministry with Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities

- Synod voted to give more support to tackling racism and discrimination directed towards the traveller community.

The State of the Nation, Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury

- "Today we see signs of division, perhaps more clearly than for generations in peacetime. There is exclusion from a sense of common purpose and of equal rights in our society, politically, economically, and socially... Brexit has... revealed how our politics and society have not paid sufficient attention to the common good: that shared life of society in which everyone is able to flourish. That pain and exclusion continues in this country. If we do not as a nation pay attention, it will cause greater division and ultimately strife."

Justin Welby's Presidential Address and his State of the Nation address can be found here:

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/node/464/speeches/speeches/15>

The Pastoral Principles are here (see the appendix):

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/GS%20Misc%201200.pdf>

All other Synod papers can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/policy-and-thinking/work-general-synod/agendas-papers/general-synod-february-2019>