

Southern Ryedale Deanery Gathering

24th Sep 2019 7.00pm

St Michael's Church, Malton

Deanery Priorities

Church Growth (LYCiG)

Discipleship

Children & Young People

AGENDA

Growing God's Kingdom Part 2

- 1. How does your garden grow? What's been growing around the deanery?**
What you told us at the last Gathering

- 2. What does 'growing the kingdom' in our deanery have to do with our 'mission'?**
Group work and plenary discussion

- 3. Deanery plans: Forthcoming Deanery Resource Day**

- 4. News round up from across the deanery**
 - Deanery business: minutes & matters arising, finance, vacancies and appointments
 - Diocesan business: arrival of Archdeacon Sam Rushton, Bishop's Mission 2020, appointment of New Archbishop, synod report (read online)
 - What's on across our deanery?

- 5. Date of next meeting**

Minutes of the meeting of Southern Ryedale Deanery Gathering (Synod)

Tues 22nd May, St Michael's Church, Malton

In attendance: Revd Chris Wingfield (CW) & Jo Bowden (JB) in the chair, Keith Acomb, Revd Martin Allwood, Trish Atkinson, Martin Boothroyd, Margaret Clark, Revd Glyn Diggins, Maureen Diggins, Jacqui Gunter, Revd M Hall, Delyth Harran, Revd Rachel Hirst, Wendy Holman, Elaine Jones, Revd Joe Kinsella, Beryl Lowe, Janet Nicholson, John Rummel, Cate Tate-Smith, Sue Teal, David White, Richard Hazlerigg, Jane Wingrove.

Apologies: Barbara Borrett, Revd Andy Bowden, R Firby, Marian Grinrod, Alison Hutchinson, Andy Hutchinson, Revd Ben Gunter, Revd Hannah Suekarran, Revd Stephen Walker.

1. Welcome

CW welcomed everyone to the meeting which continued the theme of growing God's kingdom. CW then led the opening prayers.

2. Growing the Kingdom: Gardener's Question Time

JB explained that the meeting would be shaped around the idea of the garden to aid our thinking. CW introduced Gardener's Question Time and a problem sent in by Mr Josephson. Members were asked to get into groups and think about how Mr Josephson might develop his garden and then feedback.

Groups considered the problem and then asked several follow-up questions such as - how big was the garden? What was its purpose? Was money an issue?

The groups then fed back their answers which included the following suggestions:

- Weed it, dig it, put in some pots and hardstanding, enjoy it
- Prepare, be persistent, patient, protect it from predators, take pleasure in it
- Plant appropriately (always read the label), think about timing, be prepared to make mistakes and learn from them
- Have a clear vision, resources, improve the soil
- Patience, preparation and planning
- See what's already growing there, what grows best where, get help and not do it all yourself
- Tarmac it

CW then asked the groups to apply this thinking to the deanery – what were our boundaries, what people do we have, what has worked or failed, what is parched or strangled by weeds?

The following points were noted:

- Lifestyles had changed and people were busy – we needed to consider how the church might respond
- All change must be led by the holy spirit
- There was a fatigue among long-standing members of church
- Was our soil appropriate for millennials?
- We needed to form partnerships to grow new ideas
- How do we encourage new growth alongside old wood?
- Should we all have the same garden? Should we be serving different people?
- Did we know who we were and what sort of garden we wanted?
- We should look for growth and nurture and tend it
- There was a need for pruning – trimming could reinvigorate growth
- We might need to let some plants recover

- Sometimes we might need to accept some plants don't flourish in our garden and be prepared to let them go
- There was a plan for growth whereby new ideas were grown from the bottom up which would inform the vision
- We needed to let the seasons pass and not hold on to things forever
- We should reflect on the parable of the talents
- We should remember that it was not our garden and hold things lightly. We should remember that we all 'grew up' in a particular sort of garden but not let that constrain us
- How might we define a weed? Might it actually be a plant?
- What trellis might our plants need to thrive?
- There was a time for rest, a time for breaking rocks and a time to celebrate what we were.

3. **Deanery planning: events calendar, resource days**

JB recalled discussions from the previous Gathering when members had considered how the deanery might act as a hub for local intelligence, spiritual growth, communications and joint working. She introduced a proposal to develop annual Resource Days and invited members to discuss which topics they would find most useful.

The following topics were suggested:

- Technology in church, especially AV including Wi-Fi and projection facilities
- Children's work/ ideas for activities/ co-ordinated approach to summer activities/ training for children's and youth workers
- Pastoral care for ourselves and parishioners/ how to build pastoral teams/ could we work with Andrew De Smet?
- Quiet morning with teaching and spiritual input
- Deanery walk (as piloted in Wolds Valley), pilgrimage (an idea which was attractive to young people at the moment)
- Music – including contemporary and choral
- Legalities – particularly relating to copyright
- Collapsed Sunday when we would all worship together - could we go somewhere with the Archbishop?

The DLT would take these ideas forward and develop a calendar of events which would be promoted via a new web-page hosted by St Peter's Church www.stpetersnorton.org.uk/southern-ryedale-deanery/

This might also include events which individual parishes were running and which might be of interest across the deanery. For example:

- DW had advertised a 'Data Day which was to be delivered with David Smallwood from the Generous Giving Team. He had subsequently realised that it clashed with the food festival so would revisit the date
- MG outlined a joint programme of events being run by St Peter's and St Michael's for Thy Kingdom Come and invited members to come along to the beacon event on Sun 9th June at 7pm, St Michael's.
- AB invited members to come along to a concert by Amy-Jayne Milton, a professional flautist on 14th June at St. Andrews, Kirby Grindalythe
- JB recommended a book called 'How to be a bad Christian and a better human being'.

4. **News round up from across the deanery**

The deanery business was conducted by CW:

- The minutes were approved. Matters arising from the minutes included an improvement in Bishop John's health

- The Archdeacon of York, Revd Sarah Bullock was leaving to become the Bishop of Shrewsbury and Bishop John would be taking on some of her responsibilities
- The deanery audit had received 4 responses from benefices and was awaiting a further 4. The response by individuals to the Good Neighbour audit had been poor
- The process to appoint the next Archbishop of York had begun and CW urged everyone to contribute.
- The 'Setting God's People Free' initiative had been discussed at the last Gathering and JG would send this round again for PCCs to consider
- We had been invited to participate in the next Bishop's Mission in March 2020 when all the bishops from the northern province would visit York and surrounding areas
- The Howardian benefice had not appointed and was in discussion with the Archdeacon about ways forward.

5. **Next meeting**

Tues 24th Sep, 7pm, St Michael's Church.