

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

Tues 24th Sep 2019, St Michael's Church, Malton

In attendance: Revd Chris Wingfield (CW) & Jo Bowden (JB) in the chair, Revd Martin Allwood, Trish Atkinson, Barabara Borrett, Andy Bowden, Margaret Clark, Revd Glyn Diggins, Maureen Diggins, Roland Firby, S Galley, Marian Grinrod, Jacqui Gunter, Wendy Holman, Caroline Jones, Mrs E Jones, Beryl Lowe, Janet Nicholson, Daphne Rose, John Rummel, Sue Teal, Stephen Walker, David White.

Apologies: Keith Accomb, Martin Boothroyd, Barbara Grice, Rev M Hall, Delyth Harran, Rachel Hirst, Alison Hutchinson, Andy Hutchinson, Jane Ramsden.

1. Welcome

CW welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened in prayer. He invited members to hold Alison Hutchinson's mother and Martin Boothroyd in prayer.

2. How does your garden grow?

JB invited members to reflect upon the Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4: 26-29) in the light of the discussions at the previous Gathering. In the conversations that followed the following points were made:

- Someone had to scatter the seed
- We needed to put effort in
- Maybe we should leave some areas to go wild
- Bulbs already had life within them
- A £3 packet of seeds turned into a beautiful crop
- Sometimes it was about getting the best crop from the soil you had. This might take hard work, weeding and watering
- We needed to rest but we also needed to show up
- It took time, maybe 5 years
- We needed to build on our strengths
- We should not try to mould people
- Over-pruning would kill the plant
- Sometimes we focused too much on the shed and not the garden

JB then invited members to discuss in groups what had been growing in the deanery in their respective 'parish gardens'. The following examples were shared:

- Street Parishes had set up a new home group and were planning an austerity lunch. They were keen to hold a benefice lunch once a month
- In the Harton benefice Rachel Harrison had stepped up to champion Messy Church which had led to a new post being created funded through donations. This had reinvigorated relationships with the schools and founded a play and pray group. They were also holding a festival of light for baptism families.
- In Malton there were more young people attending church as a result of occasional offices. Messy Church was growing. St Mary's had seen an increase in visitors/pilgrims and were attracting new people who wanted a BCP church. This was a good example of playing to your strengths.
- In the Wolds Valley, they were holding a united harvest benefice service on a farm for the first time which was an excellent example of the parishes working together. Prior to that each parish had done its own service. The Wolds Valley luncheon club was attracting around 40 people and the pop-up cinema in Weaverthorpe was well supported. Walking Church continued to meet three times a year. The forthcoming walk themed around autumn was on Sunday 20th October at Luttons to which all deanery members were invited.

- In West Buckrose benefice, they had held several events: a summer fair, Father's Day celebration and a harvest auction in the pub. They had sung harvest hymns and listened to a short talk on a busy pub night. This was an excellent example of creating community. CW commended this initiative and reported that Rev Nick Bird in his neighbouring benefice was running similar events such as Hymns and Pimms.

In the discussions which followed, it was noted that:

- There was much going on to be thankful for
- It was important for rural communities to make seasonal connections with their communities
- It might be helpful for networks of people to get together such as those delivering Messy Church and the Resource Days might facilitate this.

3. **What does 'growing the kingdom' in our deanery have to do with our 'mission'?**

JB informed members of the forthcoming Bishops Mission in March 2020 when 30 bishops from the Northern Province would be visiting York Diocese to support missional events. A training event on 5th October at St Peter's Church House would provide more detail. As a deanery we needed to think about how we might engage with this initiative. As an introduction, JB invited members to consider what we meant by the word mission. The following comments were noted:

- Mission was often associated with being 'shouty' on a soapbox
- A 'one size fits all' approach was often adopted
- Mission could feel like indoctrination
- It could be passionate
- It felt like it was something to be achieved
- Could mission simply be growing the Kingdom of God?
- Mission was sending out and sharing the good news
- Sometimes we needed to re-write the script – we had a tendency to think we couldn't do mission when in actual fact we were already doing it.

4. **Deanery Resource Day**

JG outlined the forthcoming Deanery Resource Day on Sat 9th Nov, 9.30am-1pm, St Peter's Church House. The morning would include three facilitated workshops in Pastoral First Aid, Children and Young People and Music and Workshop. The idea was to provide an opportunity for people who had expertise and experience in these areas to share their knowledge with those who wanted to know more. She urged members to take the fliers and personally invite those who might be interested. In the future, it was anticipated that we would invite external speakers to attend the sessions once we had a clear idea of local needs.

It was noted that it would be helpful to have more notice of such events in the future with better communications. It was hoped that the new website, hosted by St Peter's might help with this. More information on the Resource Day could be found at www.stpetersnorton.org.uk/southernryedaledeanery.

5. **Deanery business**

- The minutes were approved.
- The previous Archdeacon of York, Sarah Bullock had been consecrated as Bishop of Shrewsbury.
- The new Archdeacon of York, Sam Rushton would start in October. Her welcome service was at 11am on Sat 19th Oct at Selby Abbey to which everyone was invited.
- 'Come and See' would be held on 12th-15th March 2020 and the DLT would be discussing this in due course. The Bishop of Warrington, Bev Mason would be visiting our deanery.
- The Howardian Benefice had appointed Alison Hutchinson to be a Focal Minister at the Bishop's invitation. This was very exciting and a new venture for our diocese. Alison was currently thinking about moving her license from St Peter's, Norton to the Howardian Benefice.

- Hendrik Klaver had been licensed as the new 20-40's minister in Malton as part of the Multiply project which sought to reach a lost generation. Hendrik would be spending 10 per cent of his time with the deanery.
- Finance: DW reported that these were challenging times for many of our benefices and some had been obliged to reduce their Freewill Offering. Southern Ryedale was doing very well however, at submitting its FWOs on time.
- CW invited members to read the recently published deanery newsletter
- CW reported that Lay Dean Jo Bowden would be stepping down at the next Deanery Gathering. There was complete consensus that the deanery had been 'richly blessed' by Jo's significant and creative contribution and that she would leave a legacy. CW invited anyone expressing interest in the role of Lay Dean to get in touch with himself.

6. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 11th February 2020, St Michael's Malton.