

Approved Minutes of Easington Deanery Synod Meeting held on the 24th September 2018

Present:

Reverend Canon Jane Grieve Area Dean, Reverend Anna Brooker, Reverend Paul Harrison, Father Paul Kennedy, Father Kyle McNeil, Reverend Muriel Peters

Lay Chair Stephen Pickering

Ray & Alice Armbrister, Neil Armstrong. Alan Askew, Joanne Benson, Tony Bentley, Lorraine Dodds, Linda Dott, Matt Finkel, Ann-Marie Green, Carol Lines, Carol Maddison, Liz Masshedar, Alan Roxborough, Liz Sandywell, Jeannette Simpson, Susan Webster, Maureen Wilson, Jane Winter.

1. Opening Worship

Liz Sandwell gave a short overview of Hawthorn Church and how good things had come out of a difficult situation. What started as a fundraising effort had led to a big involvement in the life of the village, with a monthly event hosted by a church member and a fortnightly coffee morning. The church has been challenged to put the wellbeing of the community before their own needs, and has also received help from people in the village.

Liz led the meeting in prayers from the “Leading your church into growth” resource.

2. Apologies for absence:

Reverend David Bond, Reverend Roger Davies, Reverend David Grieve, Reverend Elaine Jones, Father Mark Mawhinney, Reverend Alan Stainsby

Roger Keys (Easington Colliery The Ascension) Eddy Milestone (Haswell St Paul) Anne Smith (Horden St Mary) Karen Jones (Peterlee St Cuthbert) Kathy McAvoy (Murton Holy Trinity) Alan Whitwell (Seaham Harbour St John) George Robinson (Shotton St Saviour) Marie Lovell & Diane Metcalf (Wheatley Hill All Saints), Rachel Wilson (Wingate Holy Trinity)

3. Welcome

Reverend Jane welcomed Reverend Canon David Tomlinson from Resourcing Churches @Durham Diocese, and Rachel, Alfred and Siri, the Ministry Experience Volunteers to the Synod.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July 2018

With two amendments, the minutes were accepted by the meeting.

5. Matters Arising:

USPG

At the last meeting of synod, we heard about the new initiative offered by USPG for churches to support a programme from the anglican community. It was proposed that the Deanery adopt **one** of these programmes. Churches are asked to send their first two choices of the project they would like to support to Diane Thubron email: dthubron@yahoo.com or to Jeannette 01429721233. More details are available in the Partners in Mission booklet given to Deanery Representatives and on the website www.uspg.org.uk (click Support – Become a Church Partner)

In the New Year a meeting will be organised for churches to hear more details of the chosen project (chosen by a consensus) and of the resources available. There are many suggestions on the USPG website for fundraising.

Safeguarding

C1& C2 safeguarding training at Easington Village St Mary`s Parish Hall Saturday 13th October 2018

6. Resourcing Churches - Presentation by Reverend Canon David Tomlinson

The Plan on the Page gave the Diocese`s aims for the future but a plan is only as good as it is put into practice. The Missional Leadership for Growth is to prepare clergy for the future, to enable “thinking outside the box”.

In 2016 a resource church was planted in Gateshead in the pattern of Holy Trinity Brompton, 16 people moved from Sheffield, joining with the 8 or 9 previous members, there are now 170 church members. There was an investment of resources; a vicar, youthworker, school worker, administration support worker, there was no existing culture of church so that there was room for new ways of church. St George Gateshead has the target of 5 church plants who themselves will continue to plant church groups. This target is monitored, and challenging questions asked

A resourcing church is a church which is:

- Designated a resource church by the diocesan bishop
- Part of a diocesan strategy to evangelise an area, city or town and transform society

And which:

- Has a relentless church planting program
- Develops a pipeline of leaders for future planting
- Provides other resources for mission across a city or town
- Has a strategic, area-wide, outward-looking vocation

The Bishop of Durham has identified 10 strategically key areas and there is a two-phase bid process.

Phase 1: (from 2019)

6 Resource Churches: Bp. Auckland, Darlington, Durham, Gateshead, Stockton, Washington

Phase 2 (from 2020)

4/5 Resource Churches: Easington, Hartlepool, Jarrow, Sunderland

First 3 years to be funded by National Church, then national funding decreasing as churches finance own work.

So what about Easington Deanery? Imagine a missional community, extended family, so perhaps a group living close together who decide to be church where they are, meeting in a workingman`s club, or empty shop. What will connect with people in the area? What resources would be needed?

The chair expressed the thanks of meeting to Canon Tomlinson for his presentation

7. Introduction of the Ministry Experience Volunteers (MEV)

Rachel Cook (rachelcook95@hotmail.co.uk) has been working with Wheatley Hill and Wingate churches for the last year, particularly with children and young people and will lead the new group of volunteers for the next year, while continuing her ministry in schools etc.

Alfred Jennings (alfredmhjennings@gmail.com) who has been working with Christians against Poverty in Bradford will be working in the Easington colliery and village churches.

Siri Hodges (sirihodges@hotmail.com) from Sweden is training to be a teacher and will join with the team as and when she is able.

Henry Silva (henrysilva6@live.com), who sent a video to the meeting, is working with the charity Handcrafted in Durham giving training in carpentry skills will also to be involved as he is able.

The four volunteers are living in Shotton Colliery and have committed to

- Welcome – a safe place for those who come in
- Prayer – meeting together once a week
- Hospitality – not shopping individually but jointly, so that they can share the food as people visit
- Reaching out to other young people in their 20`s in the Deanery
- Working together as a team to bless activities across the Deanery

The MEV team expressed their thanks for those who are willing to be part of the Steering Committee and for the donations of furniture etc.

8. Deanery Plan Update

Reverend Jane, Stephen, Carol Lines and Tony Bentley are forming a group to collate the information from Parish Pro-formas into the updated Deanery Plan. If you would like to be a part of that group, please contact Jane or Stephen. Draft copies will be brought to synod for any input.

Please note that the postcode for the Consultation meeting on the 13th October should be SR7 8LP. The meeting is to begin the process of identifying together the best locations for our reduced allocation from nine to seven stipendiary posts, as required by 2020. The meeting is at All Saints Church Deneside, SR7 8LP, 10am till 2pm.

Synod Reps, Churchwardens, 2 or 3 PCC members and any others with strategic planning skills in your parish are invited. This process will feature in the Deanery Plan and we want to look and pray for the right outcome for the Deanery.

Reverend Jane has been unable to access an updated Bubble chart, but a list of websites where Dashboards can be viewed will be sent with these minutes. The dashboards are formulated from the mission statistics sent in each year by churches.

Please send the completed Parish pro-formas: (Phase Two) to Jane by December. Jane & Stephen are happy to visit and help parishes in this process.

9. EDMPartnership

Lay Mission Group

Carol Lines encouraged representatives to come to the next meeting of the Lay Group and to encourage others in their parishes to come along too.

The next meeting of the lay group is Monday 29th October at Holy Trinity Murton at 7pm.

The aim of the group is to support one another in mission, praying and sharing together. The group will meet quarterly, principally to pray that God would enable us to be involved in mission, to continue the impetus gained from Talking Jesus and the initiative Setting God's People Free.

Website

The EDMP website is being integrated into the Easington Deanery website.

10. Good News

Pastoral Ministry Programme there are one or two people from the Deanery who are hoping to be part of this year's course. There is still time for anyone with a gifting to work as a

volunteer in parish ministry to join the course. It will run on a Tuesday evening from November.

Interim Priest there is capacity to use funds allocated to stipendiary posts up until 2020 by providing an interim ministry to the parishes of Easington St Mary and Easington Colliery, The Church of The Ascension.

On the 31st October 2018, the Reverend Lucy Moss will be licensed as interim minister to these two parishes, under the oversight of the Area Dean and will spend the majority of her time in those parishes, but with 10% of her time supporting the wider Deanery. Reverend Lucy has been involved in lay training in her present position.

Farewell to Reverend. Tim Wall

The synod's love and prayers go with Tim and his family, along with a bottle of Prosecco and a card signed by members of synod.

Paul Patterson to be ordained as a Deacon on Sunday 30th September by the Bishop of Durham at Hawthorn St Michael. The meeting sends love & prayers to Paul.

Open the Book –A team from Wingate, Wheatley Hill & Blackhall churches have been visiting the primary schools in Blackhall and Hesleden for the last three years, but now Father Kyle McNeil and a local team, including Reverend. Alan Stainsby will be continuing with this ministry.

The meeting closed with prayer

The date of the next meeting is Monday 26th November at Dalton le Dale St Andrew

7 for 7.15pm

Reverend Jane Grieve thanked Hawthorn St Michael & All Angels for their hospitality on behalf of the synod.