

Summary of Easington Deanery Synod September 2020

FEEDBACK FROM GENERAL SYNOD

Due to Covid 19 the May Diocesan Synod was cancelled, a deferred September meeting took place on Zoom with 90 joining. A Strategic Think Tank has been set up as the Plan on the Page 2015 - 2020 is refreshed and updated. considering feedback from the Waymark Conference and further extensive consultation with many smaller groups. The new five year Plan on a Page will consider all this information, in relation to the three existing diocesan priorities, the five marks of mission, and the financial situation. A possible additional priority to be considered is the “caring for creation” aspect that was brought by the Children & Youth groups to the Waymark Conference, based around the fifth mark of mission.

Also on the agenda was the **Guided Pledge**. Rev Jane and Stephen are happy to attend church PCCs to go through the formula used to work out the pledge amount. The individual pledges for deanery churches will not be made public. We are asked to remember that even before Covid the Diocese finance was low and that there is currently an operational deficit of 1.3 million.

Pledge responses will be used to present a revised diocesan 2021 budget for approval to the November meeting of Synod, which will meet via zoom.

https://youtu.be/UcnqPf_BT4E Bishop Paul's Presidential Address transcript available on the Durham C of E website :

<https://durhamdiocese.org/bishop-paul-gives-presidential-address/>

There is a slide presentation from the Diocesan Synod meeting September 2020 which includes financial information available on the Easington Deanery website. Also Jeannette can email a copy to you if you prefer.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE NEWS:

Seaham - Fr Paul Kennedy informed the meeting that because of Covid 19 there would be some delay, and that the first priority would be to restore the existing churches. But by Easter 2021 the plan has three prongs: proposed mission through a shop in the town centre, afternoon meetings at St Mary's, renewed use of All Saints Deneside, and house groups

Murton - Kathy McAvoy - a full time project manager has been appointed, and after lots of difficulties with landlords they are now looking to purchase a shop. Hoping to be ready by Christmas but with alternative plans in case of continuing Covid 19 difficulties. The shop will give a venue for a fresh expression of church, a place of welcome and a place where relationships can be built. There are plans for practical activities e.g. woodwork, baking, and for prayer space.

Thornley - Rev. Ali Williams, has been officially designated as a Planting Curate, has been aware of the village during her training and of the longtime feelings of hopelessness and lack of trust in the community. The Parish Council is being supportive and having refurbished Youll House with a view to renting the property for the sole use of the project. The plans are for a place of social action, partnering with other organisations, and a place for an alternative worshipping community.