

Approved Minutes of Easington Deanery Synod Meeting held on the 28th September 2020

Present:

Reverend Canon Jane Grieve Area Dean, Reverend Elaine Jones, Father Paul Kennedy, Father Kyle McNeil, Reverend Lucy Moss, Reverend Muriel Peters, Reverend Hannah Richardson, Reverend Alison Williams

Lay Chair Stephen Pickering

Tracey Fox, Carol Lines, Kathy McAvoy, Diane Metcalfe, Roger Muggleton, Alan Roxborough, Jeannette Simpson, Maureen Wilson, Jenny Winter.

In attendance for item 4: the re-licensing of Dr Joss Bryan as Reader in the deanery:

Reverend Hilary Avent, Sub Warden of Readers

Dr Joss Bryan

In attendance to contribute to item 7 Mrs Rachel Wilson

1. Opening Worship

Reverend Kyle Mcneil led the meeting in an act of worship, focussed around the Eve of the feast day for St Michael and All Angels, and our victory in Christ in the challenges we face.

2. Apologies for absence:

Reverend David Bond, Reverend Paul Harrison, Reverend Paul Paterson

Ray & Alice Armbrister, Alan Askew, Joanne Benson, Loraine Dodds, Matt Finkel, Ann-Marie Green, Karen Jones, Carol Maddison, Liz Massheddar, Liz Sandywell, Julie Smith, Susan Webster, Alan Whitwell

3. Welcome

Reverend Jane welcomed three newly ordained clergy to the meeting, Reverend Hilary Avent (from the next door deanery!), Reverend Hannah Richardson, Reverend Alison Williams and the newly licensed Pastoral Minister Rachel Wilson.

4. Licensing of Dr Joss Bryan

Reverend Hilary Avent led the Reader Licensing for Dr Joss Bryan. At the end of the brief ceremony, the meeting welcomed Joss with a round of applause.

Hilary and Joss then left the meeting.

As the Deanery Plan and the proposed Group Ministry have yet to be implemented, Joss is licensed to Rev Jane as Area Dean and will continue her prior link with Haswell while bringing her expertise and skills from her professional past to help the whole of the Deanery.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February 2020

The minutes were accepted by the meeting with two amendments

6. Matters Arising

None

7. Celebration of Lay Ministries

New Pastoral Assistants

Tracey Fox and Rachel Wilson were both welcomed by the meeting in their role as Pastoral Assistants and briefly shared details about their training and the outworking of their ministries. Tracey has been active in the community, helping others in their faith journey, giving help and advice to those in poverty and debt, helping with shopping and delivering activity packs for children. (The funding for these activity packs was from the Area Action Partnership, details of which can be accessed from Rev Jane).

Rachel's journey started at the Baptism of her youngest child and her involvement in the Church has grown over time. After being approached by the Rev Jane to join the pastoral assistant course, Rachel prayed and slowly felt it was right and found the course much more enjoyable than she expected, and of great help in her service for God.

News of former MEV's

Rachel Price just beginning, she is one of the first to do the split ordinand training, three days in a church setting in Hartlepool and three days at St John's College.

Sarah Quinn has just started her Ordinand training in Durham.

Alfred has started his training at Trinity College, Bristol

Siri Hodges has completed her Teacher training and is working at the Middlesbrough school where she was placed

Henry Silva has moved to live in Murton and is a great help to the church during its interregnum, preaching, playing the piano, joining the PCC etc.

The meeting was asked to pray that there would be new MEVs to follow the model either into lay or clergy roles.

Diocesan Readers in training

Carol Lines is in the third year of her Reader training and is feeling "blown over" by what she is learning and in the strengthening of her faith.

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.

8. Report from Diocesan Synod - Stephen Pickering

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.

9. Report on Deanery Plan

Bishop Paul has approved the legal document needed to put in place the changes to clergy posts proposed in our Deanery Plan. This will now be sent to the Church Commissioners for their agreement. Some delay has been caused by the Covid 19 situation.

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10. Request from Bishop Paul

This request from Bishop Paul was not received in time for the meeting but Rev Jane asked the meeting to consider their views on the possible introduction of the fourth priority diocesan to the Plan on a Page; should this be a separate priority or should it be incorporated into each of the existing three as an additional focus within them?.

11. Any Other Business none

The meeting closed with a time of prayer

Reverend Jane led the meeting in a time of Prayer for the diocese & deanery. As each parish was mentioned by name, we were asked to pray for the challenges and joys, to visualise the map of the deanery, and to imagine each of these churches as points of light. We asked God that He would help them spread their light to their communities.

The date of the next meeting Monday 23rd November 7 for 7.15pm venue TBC

Reverend Jane thanked St Andrew's Blackhall for their hospitality