

Meeting of Easington Deanery Synod (in person and on Zoom)
12th July 7pm

MINUTES

Present:

Revd Jane Grieve (Area Dean), Revd Elaine Jones, Fr. Kyle McNeil, Revd Muriel Peters, Revd Ali Williams (Zoom)
Stephen Pickering (Lay Chair), Roger Muggleton, Jane (Jenny) Winter, Jocelyn Bryan, Diane Thubron (Zoom), Maureen Wilson, Julie Olds, Ann-Marie Green, Alan Roxborough (Zoom), Octavian Lazin (Zoom), Carol Maddison, Elizabeth Armes, Rachel Wilson (Secretary), Karen Jones, Wendy Tempest, Francis Drake, Evelyn Izod, Alan Roxborough (Zoom), Elizabeth Masshedar.

Observers: ordinands Emma Wilkinson and Calvin Robinson

	Item	Action
1.	Opening Worship	
	Opening prayers and welcome by St Cuthbert's vicar, Revd Elaine Jones. She gave an update on their roof situation, and how "it is impossible to outgive God".	
2.	Apologies	
	Revd Paul Paterson Revd Paul Harrison Fr Paul Kennedy Revd Hannah Richardson Revd Lucy Moss Kathy McAvoy Neil Armstrong Welcome to ordinands on placement: Emma from Ridley Hall and Calvin from St Stephens House, accompanying Father Kyle.	
3.	Congratulations	
	Congratulations to newly ordained priests – Ali Williams and Hannah Richardson. Cards for them were circulated for signature along with book tokens, to be passed on after the meeting. Reader Carol Lines has concluded her training and will be licensed in September.	
4.	Minutes of the last meeting	
	Previous meeting held on 17 th May 2021 Checked for accuracy: agreed as a true record. Muriel Peters proposed, and Julie Olds seconded, passed unanimously.	
5.	Matters Arising:	
	No matters arising.	

6.	Deanery Treasurer's Report	
	Delivered in the absence of Revd Paul Paterson, deanery treasurer, prevented from attendance by illness. Last year was a holiday from the payment of Deanery Share for all the churches. For those who did pay, the amount from last year will be held in credit. A fuller report will be brought to September Synod.	
7.	Sharing between parishes 1: 'Hybrid Church'	
	Update from Rachel Wilson (Wingate) – Churchwarden and Facebook administrator. Wingate uses live streaming of its in-person Sunday and midweek services with a significant following of those unable to attend due to ill health, work or geographical distance, and many identifiable new people are attending. All they use for this is a single mobile phone. Jane reported that Paul Paterson pre-records Sunday services every week and uploads them onto a YouTube channel again with much hard work but with high uptake. Octavian Lazin (Hawthorn) added that a lot of editing takes place and it works quite well introducing people to church and generating discussions afterwards with friends who did not come to church. Roger Muggleton (Wingate) reported that Wingate intend to continue their "hybrid" services. Carol Lines (South Hetton) (where services were pre recorded and uploaded to YouTube through lockdown) said she found that more people wanted to participate in the service and it also helped people feel confident to take the step of then coming into the building.	
8.	Sharing between parishes 2: 'Prioritisation Process'	
	Entry into the Prioritisation Process has been taking place in three of the Deanery's churches still in interregnum. The process has been developed because of the situation the diocese is in – not being able to fund all clergy posts. It is facilitated by the Archdeacon of Durham, Ven Libby Wilkinson, and was introduced by Bishop's Council via a committee made up of the three archdeacons, the diocesan secretary, a Lay Chair and an Area Dean. The first criteria is the length of interregnum – Murton have been in this position for 3 ½ years. Murton, Dalton-le-dale and South Hetton are now working together through the process. Carol Maddison (Dalton le Dale) reported back from Dalton-le-Dale, one of the three, where the PCC has been helped and supported by the Area Dean, and was then approached to attend a joint meeting of the three PCCs with archdeacons Libby and Bob. The process involves consideration of four aspects: mission; finance and giving; leadership; and sustainability. The three churches have discussed these issues and created a self-assessment of their churches. These responses have been submitted to the Diocese, and will be drawn together to use in creating an advert for a future incumbent. Further work on some of the four areas will follow as needed. Carol reported that the toolkit was a good method, although initially daunting.	

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	Jenny Winter (Murton) gave Murton's account of the process, acknowledging the assistance from Archdeacon Libby. Jenny reported that the workbook (toolkit) is well put together and a good tool to have. Jane has heard that other parishes not in interregnum have found it such a helpful process that they are adopting it for themselves.	
9.	Sharing between parishes 3: 'Communities of Hope'	
	Feedback given from Jenny Winter (Murton). Their CoH is up and running – with a handcrafted stall, a walking group, a knitting group, children's activities during the summer, a memory of Murton luncheon, speakers, prayer stations. The next big project at Murton is tackling their sustainability. Jane Grieve (Area Dean) reported, in Fr. Paul Kennedy's absence, that seeds are being sown in Seaham. Jane also reported on Thornley's CoH. A community building been refurbished by the Parish Council to lease to it. A partnership approach has been at the heart of progress at both Murton and at Thornley. CoH Thornley has set up an Executive Committee answerable to Wingate PCC, the accountable body. Francis Drake (Wingate), Church Warden and Executive Committee member, reported that it is a very exciting time, motivation is strong. Francis detailed the list of paperwork and documents needed.	
10.	Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre	
	Thornley CoH is seeking funding to be a base for CAP Debt Centre – Alison Williams (Wingate) reported that this deanery has the largest area of poverty with the population widely dispersed across the deanery. CAP will help people out of the debt which often accompanies poverty. Although the CAP Debt Centre will be based Thornley, it will cover the deanery and beyond, including what was essentially the old 'Easington District Council' area. Befrienders are needed in each church to point people in the direction of the CAP Debt Centre where appropriate. Thornley CoH is well on the way to raising enough funding to employ a part time Debt Centre manager who will act as the middle person, travelling out to meet potential clients. Small but regular financial contributions from parishes in the deanery would be gratefully received to bridge the remaining gap. Liz Massheder (Horden) works with Citizens Advice and asked if someone was referred to CAP, where do they go from there? Jane responded that the debt centre manager will facilitate a discussion with experts at CAP headquarters in Bradford to provide expert advice as needed.	RW to circulate CAP leaflet to Synod
11.	Deanery Pilgrimage	
	Planning is beginning for the pilgrimage on the afternoon of Saturday 25th September – everyone from this deanery has been invited to walk on pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral, to arrive from 2pm onwards. Picnics can	

	be enjoyed in the Monks Garden or in the cloisters if wet. This is for all, not just our congregation members. It will conclude with evensong at 5.25pm.	
12.	Concluding Worship	
	Carol Lines led the closing worship, with prayers around the theme of transition.	

Meeting closed at 20:35

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 27th September 2021, 7 for 7.15pm.

Venue St John's Seaham

This meeting will have delegates meeting in person, according to remaining C of E Covid guidance still in place.