

MINUTES

Present

Revd Jane Grieve (Area Dean), Revd Elaine Jones, Fr Paul Kennedy, Fr Kyle McNeil, Revd Ali Williams, Revd Paul Paterson (Treasurer), Revd Hannah Richardson, Roger Muggleton, Maureen Wilson, Carol Maddison, Francis Drake, Carol Lines, Alan Roxborough, Karen Jones, Hannah Williams, Neil Armstrong, Loraine Dodds, Diane Thubron, Tracey Fox, Janelle O'Hara, Wendy Tempest.

Revd Ruth Young (Diocesan Discipleship and Evangelism Enabler, in attendance)

Alice Morton Eddy (East Durham CAP Centre Manager, in attendance)

	Item	Action
1.	Opening Worship	
	Revd Jane Grieve opened the meeting and invited Fr Kyle McNeil to lead us in a short act of worship and prayer.	
2.	Apologies	
	Stephen Pickering (Lay Chair), Evelyn Izod, Octavian Lazin, Liz Massheder, Rev'd Lucy Moss, Ann-Marie Green, Joss Bryan, Rev'd Mark Harrison, Ray Armbrister, Alice Armbrister.	
3.	Welcome	
	Revd Jane Grieve (Area Dean) welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that there were no newcomers to Synod, but that there was one 'Farewell' in that Revd Ali Williams would be leaving the deanery to take up a new post in Spennymoor. A card and bottle of wine were given to her in thanks for all she has brought to deanery life.	
4.	Minutes of the previous meeting	
	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 st January 2022 were checked for accuracy and, with two minor amendments, were proposed (by Revd Elaine Jones) and seconded (by Maureen Wilson) that they be accepted as a true and correct record; this proposal was then agreed and carried unanimously.	
5.	Matters Arising	
	There were no matters arising from those minutes which are not covered elsewhere in the agenda.	

6.	Diocesan Poverty Agenda	
	Revd Ruth Young gave a comprehensive presentation entitled <i>“Thinking About Poverty”</i> centred on her work in areas of poverty and challenged us all to think more deeply about the different areas and types of poverty, concentrating her thinking on the reading from Matthew’s Gospel 26:6-11. Whilst poverty can be more readily recognised as a shortage of money, we were reminded that it also embraces a lack of resources, a lack of relationships and a loss of identity. Whilst <i>“Challenging Poverty”</i> is one of the key diocesan priorities, it is integral to the other priorities including <i>“Energising Growth”</i>, <i>“Children and Young People”</i> and <i>“Caring for God’s Creation”</i>. Recognising the four main elements of poverty – Material, Relational, Identity and Spiritual - we are encouraged to work together to address child and youth poverty, to respond to isolation especially among the elderly and also to reach out and respond to the needs of asylum seekers and refugees whilst not losing sight of the fact that the worsening economic situation beginning to bite now will increase the need to look out for the poor in our midst and to care for them accordingly. Ruth surveyed the biblical words used for the concept of poverty in both old and new testaments.	
7.	Seaham Community of Hope update	
	Carol Lines gave an overview of the progress being made with Seaham Community of Hope, saying how much the planning is rooted in daily prayer. Now with the official name of <i>“Safe Harbour Seaham”</i> and a suitable logo created, temporary offices have been set up and staff employed and with more to come. A property has been secured at 31 Church Street and completion of the purchase is expected soon, although renovations and repairs will be needed once it has been acquired. It is hoped that local community leaders, business owners, as well as health and education agencies will recognise the benefits that the facility will have to offer once it is up and running and, to this end, will be invited to an open day in St John’s Hall to learn more about it. Thanks be to God for his answer to prayers.	
8.	Report from Diocesan Synod	
	As some earlier agenda items had run over schedule, and there being nothing urgent to report under this topic, it was agreed to defer the report from Diocesan Synod until the next Deanery meeting.	

Meeting of Easington Deanery Synod held at St Mary's Church, Horden
23rd May 2022 at 7:00pm

9.	Good News Stories	
	Alice Morton Eddy spoke enthusiastically and informatively on her role as the manager of the new East Durham CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Centre which is running from Thornley "Little House of Hope". She spoke of the growing need for the debt counselling services offered by CAP but pointed out that those in need were required to 'make the first move' in approaching CAP, so wider publicity is important. Also, as pastoral help is given as well as financial, the quality of the attention given to each of those in need was maintained to a high standard which meant that, for the funds available (to pay for staff and overheads) each member of staff could only attend to two new people per week. PCCs were encouraged to 'adopt' CAP as a charity to be supported to enable suitable growth of the services they offer. Rev'd Ali Williams told of how the Little House of Hope is now ready and about to be 'open for business' in Thornley and that, although she is moving away to begin her new post in Spennymoor, she will continue to help at Thornley until the existing staff are able to manage on their own.	
10.	Any Other Business	
	There was nothing raised under this topic.	
11.	Closing Prayers	
	A time of open prayer was led by Rev'd Jane Grieve during which people were able to give thanks for all the good that was happening in their respective parishes. All united in saying The Grace.	
12.		
	It was agreed that the next meeting would be in person and would be on Monday 18th July at 7:00pm for 7:15pm start, at the "Little House of Hope" (formerly Youll House), 8 Greenwood Cottages, Thornley DH6 3HF (on the main road through Thornley, near the central mini roundabout, opposite the pizza shop). The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.	

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