

MINUTES

Present

Fr Kyle McNeil (Area Dean), Revd Jane Grieve, Revd Paul Paterson (Treasurer), Roger Muggleton, Maureen Wilson, Carol Maddison, Carol Lines, Karen Jones, Loraine Dodds, Stephen Pickering (Chairman), Jenny Winter, Evelyn Izod, Janelle O'Hara, Anne-Marie Green, Revd Mark Harrison, Revd John D'Silva, Alan Roxborough, Jane Winter, Revd Elaine Jones, Fr Paul Kennedy, Kathy McAvoy, Revd Alan Bartlett.

	Item	Action
1.	Introduction Welcome and Opening Prayers	
	Revd Mark Harrison led opening prayers; the hymn <i>"Lo! He comes, with clouds descending"</i> was sung by all to organ accompaniment by Stephen Pickering. Fr Kyle McNeil (Area Dean) welcomed everyone to the meeting, commenting on how wonderful it was to be in a warm church, and thanked our hosts for providing the heating.	
2.	Apologies	
	Octavian Lazin, Liz Massheder, Rev'd Lucy Moss, Rev'd Hannah Richardson, Wendy Tempest, Susan Webster, Francis Drake, Tracey Fox, Diane Thubron, Liz Massheder, Revd Muriel Peters, Jocelyn Bryan, Neil Armstrong, Alan Whitwell.	
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	
	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 th July 2022 were checked for accuracy and, with one amendment, (Anne-Marie Green had been recorded as absent but was, in fact, present) were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed that they be accepted as a true and correct record.	
4.	Matters Arising	
	There were no matters arising from those minutes which are not covered elsewhere in the agenda. The Chairman signed off the minutes accordingly.	
5.	Principal Item: Developments in Lay Training	
	Revd Alan Bartlett (who had been unable to attend our previous synod) spoke informatively of the need to involve more laity in the running of the church, especially services. This need has arisen because "vicars" are being further and further stretched to cover their increasing workloads and are unable to do so efficiently without help. Invoking the words of Bob Dylan <i>"The times they are a-changing"</i> and Richard Hooker <i>"God has left it to the Church itself how it should be organised"</i> Alan reminded us that all ordained ministry is	

	now collaborative and enabling. In the words from the ordination service, clergy are reminded to <i>“Be among us...”</i> and <i>“Together, by God’s grace we will ...”</i> emphasising the need for clergy and laity to work together for the more efficient running of the Church. Alan spoke of the various opportunities for laity to be more effectively involved ; these ranged from a short 5-meeting course called <i>“Wings for Worship”</i> which is aimed at enabling lay members of the Church to be able to lead part or all of a service. There is also a Pastoral Ministry Course which trains laity to become confident Christian pastoral ministers visiting parishioners in their homes. There are also more extensive courses available for Licensed and Authorised Lay Ministers which enable them to preach and teach the faith. More information on each of these courses can be obtained from pamela.wilson@durham.anglican.org but, in any case, a conversation with your incumbent would be the first step to take. A lively and informative Q&A session followed.	
6.	Diocesan Synod Report	
	Net-Zero - Stephen Pickering (Deanery Chairman) reported on the recent meeting of Diocesan Synod, which had concentrated on <i>“Caring for God’s Creation”</i> and the aim of making churches more energy-efficient and exploring net-zero carbon options especially in heritage buildings. This is to be the focus for 2023. More information can be found on the diocesan website - https://durhamdiocese.org/mission-discipleship-and-ministry-/caring-for-gods-creation/net-zero-buildings-churchyard-management/ In a step towards this target, it was decided that the Diocesan Board of Finance would contribute £500,000 towards the cost of making diocesan housing stock more energy-efficient. Deanery Synod Representation - There was clarification on the number of deanery reps each parish was permitted to have, relative to the numbers on the electoral roll. For example, an electoral roll of 25 or fewer entitles the parish to one representative; a roll of 26 – 100 entitles a parish to two; a roll of 101 – 200 permits three reps. Presidential Address – Bishop Paul’s presidential address is available to watch online - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cN0cgTyTUVg Budget for 2023 – The proposed diocesan budget for 2023 expects a shortfall of £700,000, which includes the £500,000 expenditure towards Net Zero for housing stock as outlined above. Parish Share – Praise was given to those deaneries that had maintained, and promptly paid, their Parish Share for 2022; among	

	these was Easington Deanery who had already met 96% of their pledge.	
7.	Plan for meetings for 2023	
	Fr Kyle McNeil (Area Dean) gave the dates for proposed deanery synod meetings in 2023 – 13th March 2023 10th July 2023 27th November 2023 - with a possible deanery pilgrimage in September 2023 (tbc). Fr Kyle explained that it was proposed to cut the number of meetings to three over the year but that, if it proved insufficient, this would be reviewed.	
8.	Any Other Business	
	a. Update from Deanery Treasurer – Revd Paul Paterson (Treasurer) reported that the change of bank account from HSBC to Lloyds is complete and that the HSBC bank account is now closed. He reported that most of the deanery subscriptions had been received [NB – at the time of preparing these minutes, only three remained outstanding]. He encouraged all parishes to set up a Standing Order so that future payments could be made without the need for reminders. b. Update from Communities of Hope – Revd Mark Harrison spoke of the progress of <i>Heart on the Terrace</i> in Murton which had been without a community leader for some time but had now engaged Peter who seemed to have been the answer to prayer; Mark remarked on how well the volunteers had stepped up so well during the period of vacancy. Revd Jane Grieve spoke of the <i>Little House of Hope</i> in Thornley having been in a similar state of flux as Revd Ali Williams moves to leave and the volunteers step up to ensure regular running. Jane spoke of Ali's changed circumstances having been effected by her husband's illness. (we were encouraged to pray for Ali and her family) Carol Lines spoke positively of the <i>Seaham Community of Hope</i> and remarked on the fact that, even though it was not yet properly open, it had generated interest and that there was a real 'buzz' about the place.	

9.	Period of Guided Prayer for our Deanery and Churches	
	Fr Kyle led us in a time of guided prayer which centred on lament and hope in this time of Advent. The readings were – Isaiah 11:1-4 Mark 1:1-4 Mark 13:34ff Isaiah 40:1-2 The guided prayers were interspersed with times for private prayer.	
10	Next Meeting	
	The meeting closed at 8:55pm with the next meeting scheduled for Monday 13th March 2023 at a venue yet to be decided.	