

Newcastle East Deanery Synod
Minutes of Meeting held on
Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 7.30pm Using Zoom

Present:

Clergy: Robert Lawrance, Rae Caro, Yvette Daniel, Rob Fox, Helen Gill, Phil Medley, Neal Terry, Pat Craighead,
Laity: Jennifer Brown, Sheila Dove, Louisa Fox, Jenny Germain, Les Hodson, Matthew King, Margaret Legge, Trevor Lennox, Elizabeth Screen, Marie Stern-Peltz, Jenny Trotter

Revd Robert Lawrance welcomed everyone.

1. Presentation on Eco Church

Canon Rob Kelsey gave a presentation on why we as Christians should care for the environment. He introduced his new book Praying for the Earth and led the synod in prayer using prayers from the book. A question and answer session followed and the Churches talked about some of the things they had been doing.

Robert Lawrance thanked Rob Kelsey for his presentation.

2. Apologies for Absence

Shane Waddle, Jonathan Lawson, Martin Lee,

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed as a correct record

4. Matters Arising

4.1. Inclusive Deanery. The group met with Rev Rachel Mann from Withington Deanery in Manchester. Rachel talked about the journey they had been on to become an inclusive Deanery saying that it is not just about sexuality, other areas to think about are age, economic and disabilities. It had led to more collaboration as a Deanery about other things.

Neal Terry had given a talk to St Francis PCC which had been well received.

Comments were made as to how inclusive church fitted in with the transformation agenda of the diocese.

Inclusive Church will be the main agenda item for the June synod. Rae will arrange a meeting of the group in April to look at next steps. A new coordinator for the group will be needed as Rae moves on. If anyone else would like to join the group please would they contact Rae.

5. Finance Update – Revd Robert Lawrance

- 5.1. We have fulfilled 10% of our Parish Share as a Deanery.
- 5.2. We still need Deanery Finance Officer. A question was asked as to whether we could share a DFO with another Deanery. Robert Lawrance will explore the possibility at his next Area Deans meeting.

6. Update from Diocesan Synod – Matthew King

The main agenda item for the synod was the Transformation Agenda. It reminded us of the three diocesan values:

Open to God's transforming love

Generous with God's transforming gifts

Engaged in God's transforming work in the world

And the three priorities

Bringing Good News

Growing in Christ

Living Faith Fully

The diocese does not have the money to run Churches as we have done are looking for ways in which we can be Church in a more collaborative and innovative way. Various models were discussed.

A task force of the Bishop of Berwick, Chris Elder, Robert Sainer-Haigh and Shane Waddle has been set up and will meet up with Deanery Development Groups by the end of April. The Newcastle East Deanery Chapter will meet with them on the 20th of April. It is suggested that each Clergy person bring a lay person with them to that meeting.

It was suggested by Robert Lawrance that one way forward might be for the whole of Newcastle East Deanery to become a single mission entity along the lines of MINE.

7. Presentation on Arocha and the Eco Church Project

Robert Lawrance introduced the Arocha Website which supports Eco Church. The site started in Portugal and Arocha is Portuguese for rock.

He showed a video of how to sign up. There is a questionnaire on the website which enables Churches to see what they are already doing and what they could do and there is the opportunity to apply for awards: bronze, silver and gold.

St Francis have already engaged with the award scheme. Jenny Germain said that it can appear daunting at first sight but once you break it down you can be surprised by how much you are already doing and what can be easily achieved. St Francis has now got its silver award. She said the building side of it can be more difficult as it depends what sort of building you have got. She suggested that from their experience the best thing is to get a small group of committed people working on it.

8. A.O.B. – none

Revd Robert Lawrance thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Happy Easter. The meeting closed with the Grace.

Future Dates

Deanery Ascension Day Service on Thursday 13th May

Deanery Synod - Thursday 24th June at 7.30pm

Deanery Synod - Tuesday 21st Sept at 7.30pm

Deanery Synod - Thursday 11th Nov at 7.30pm