

**Newcastle East Deanery Synod**  
**Minutes for Meeting**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.30pm Using Zoom**

Present:

Clergy: Robert Lawrance, Rae Caro, Yvette Daniel, Rob Fox, Helen Gill, Martin Lee, Helen Lunn, Phil Medley, Avril Taylor, Neal Terry

Laity: Jennifer Brown, Sheila Dove, Louisa Fox, Jenny Germain, Les Hodson, Matthew King, Margaret Legge, Elizabeth Screen, Marie Stern-Peltz, Jenny Trotter, Shane Waddle

1. Opening Prayers led by Robert Lawrance  
Robert Lawrance welcomed everyone to the first synod of the newly elected Deanery Synod for 2020 to 2023
2. Apologies for Absence – Pat Craighead, Jonathan Lawson
3. Minutes of the last meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 had been circulated.
4. Matters Arising - none
5. Elections:
  - 5.1. Lay Chair – Matthew King. Matthew gave notice that this will be his last stint as Lay Chair.
  - 5.2. Deanery Secretary – Louisa Fox
  - 5.3. Deanery Finance Officer – this is still vacant. Information regarding this job will be circulated.
6. Finance Update – Revd Robert Lawrance  
The Parish Share document was shared with the meeting. It shows the picture across the Diocese and the Deanery.  
Shane Waddle was asked as Diocesan Secretary to give the Diocesan view. The Diocese is currently £300,000 down on the same time last year. They are asking Parishes to give what they can. They have asked Parishes to let them know what the picture looks like for next year but have so far received only limited response. The Diocese is looking at selling property to meet the shortfall.  
Transformation Agenda – the numbers of clergy may reduce and this may be accelerated due to Coronavirus. Covid is bringing out deeper issues however Covid is not only issue. Congregations are declining which is creating a bigger challenge for those who are left.
7. Update from Parishes and MINE – Information from each Parish had been distributed with the agenda and will be distributed with the minutes.  
St Gabriels – their Winter Wonderland had been replaced with a bakery box distribution scheme delivering to doorsteps which enabled them to raise funds for the charities they support.

Robert Lawrance thanked Ministers and Congregations for the faithful way they are keeping worship going, keeping in touch with their communities and supporting each other in many

ways. There are many different attempts create digital communities. Everyone is learning new things, providing an online presence, doing things differently and thinking about what we do.

8. Presentation on the Pastoral Principles by Matthew King, Rev Rae Caro and Rev Helen Gill

A video from the Diocese was shown which introduces the Pastoral Principles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIP0R44y6FI>

Rae Caro gave a brief introduction.

Helen Gill then opened the next section in prayer

Pastoral Principles - brief introduction – where we have got to and where we are going to.

The six pastoral principles are:-

Acknowledge prejudice

Speak into Silence

Address Ignorance

Cast out Fear

Admit Hypocrisy

Pay Attention to Power

More information can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/PAG-PP-website.pdf>

Each principle was briefly discussed by looking at one of the questions on the website.

A further resource Living in Love and Faith has been published this week.

Here is the link to the Living in Love and Faith website with introductory material:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

Here is the link to the learning hub:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>

The book can be read for free online but can be purchased in hard copy here:

<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/living-in-love-and-faith>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

Churches are being asked to consider using some of the Love and Faith resources as their Lent discussions this year.

Discussion also took place on Inclusive Church. A Deanery in Manchester has become an Inclusive Deanery – is this something we could consider?

Revd Neal Terry is a regional ambassador for Inclusive Church and would be happy to talk to any Churches who wished to explore it.

Helen Gill – final prayer -

As a result of the discussion it was suggested that:-

A group was formed to discuss:

LGBTI+ safeguarding and inclusion

next steps with Living in Love and Faith

the possibility of further discussion around Inclusive Church

how we live well together when we don't agree.

If you or somebody in your parish would like to be involved in this please contact

([rscar087@gmail.com](mailto:rscar087@gmail.com)) or Matthew King ([matthew21king@gmail.com](mailto:matthew21king@gmail.com))

Thank you to everyone for taking part

9. Dates for next year will be circulated.

10. A.O.B. - none