

Newcastle East Deanery Synod
Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 24th June 2021 at 7.30pm
Using Zoom

Present:

House of Clergy: Rob Fox, Helen Gill, Robert Lawrance, Jonathan Lawson, Martin Lee, Phil Medley, Neal Terry.

House of Laity:, Jennifer Brown, Sheila Dove, Julia Ellison, Louisa Fox, Jenny Germain, Les Hodson, Matthew King, Margaret Legge, Elizabeth Screen, Jenny Trotter, Shane Waddle, Jen Shields.

Guest: Izzy McDonald-Booth

1. Opening Prayers and Welcome

Robert Lawrance opened the meeting in prayer. He welcomed Julia Ellison and Jen Shields who have recently joined synod and Izzy McDonald-Booth.

2. General Synod report and Living in Love and Faith feedback – Izzy McDonald-Booth

General Synod had two meetings online in Feb and April.

Feb

IICSA report on child abuse. All recommendations have been accepted including increasing the independence of safe guarding officers and providing support for victims.

Report on housing

The phrase due regard is being removed from legislation as it is imprecise. It is being replaced with requirement or guidance.

April

legislation passed to carry out synodical process on zoom.

Code of Practice for Clergy Discipline approved.

International religious freedom. Call on government to consider this when making trade deals.

Response for representation – looking at how people are appointed to the Crowns nomination commission and Vacancy in See committees.

Finance

Feel for how church is nationally

New strategic direction. Online seminars Archbishop of York on his website.

<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/priorities>

July meeting which will also be on Zoom will be looking at

terms of service for deanery synods

Report on racial justice.

LLF passing the baton. A new General Synod will be in place in November. Nov.

Special measure – 5 guiding principles – do they still work?

Izzy encouraged people to think about putting themselves forward for General Synod. You just need to be on an electoral roll.

Living in Love and Faith

Our deanery is quite far on. There has been work on inclusive church work and some parishes have already held LLF courses.

The Diocesan open synod had been well attended with lot of questions.

Lesley Chapman has been appointed as a LLF chaplain and there is now a group of chaplains who are available for 1-1 sessions or to support parishes.

Feedback needs to be on the website by the end of the year.

The feedback will be taken to the House of Bishops in early 2022 with the aim that a report will be produced July 2022 with recommendations produced by November 2022.

Robert Lawrance commends the materials and use of chaplains and encourages parishes either singly or in collaboration to put on courses.

The course leader needs to be a facilitator.

3. **Apologies for Absence:** Pat Craighead, Dave Johnson, Marie Stern-Peltz, Helen Lunn, Trevor and Joyce Lennox, Yvette Daniel
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** - The minutes for 23rd March 2021 were approved.
5. **Matters Arising** - None
6. **Finance Update** – Parish Share Summary sent out with the agenda
The summary went up to month 5 and so far 33% of the share has been paid.
A question was asked about St Oswald's. They usually fulfil their share in December and there is no reason to think they won't.
7. **Deanery Development – Robert Lawrance and Neal Terry**
Neal Terry had produced a paper on Deanery Development based on conversations at diocesan and general synod which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

We need to have a conversation as a Deanery about how we deliver mission and ministry. We are being asked to think about what the Church should look like in 2030 thinking about what is feasible and what resources we have.

The Diocese has produced 3 models: -

Mission Parishes – group of parishes working together to build capacity for mission and ministry

Mission Hubs – Parish Churches gathered around a central church hub which supports mission and ministry in each place.

Resourcing Churches – Churches which are able to support planting new ministry/mission into other parishes: partnership, replanting, rekindling.

We will need to work more collaboratively in the future. We can use the models, a mixture of the models or design one of our own. One way of starting to work collaboratively would be to look at Eco Church and Inclusive Church together.

A wide-ranging discussion then took place.

It was agreed that,

We begin this process across the Deanery by setting up a small working group to take forward discussion through -

Each parish PCC making arrangements to receive the working group to present further detail and to assist each PCC in considering; -

The parish profile in terms of Inclusion,
It's response to the C of E commitments to Eco-church,
The possibilities for mission,
The capacity for parish and Deanery collaborative working, to deliver a collective Deanery mission.

This process should not take longer than six months and the working group should report back to the first Deanery Synod in 2022 with proposals for the next stages of Development.

Robert Lawrance asked PCCs to invite the working group to one of their meetings. He and Neal will be on the working group. He asked for others to come forward as listeners asking Louisa Fox and Matthew King at the meeting and for others to consider and let him know if they would like to be involved. The working group will consider how many people to take to a PCC meeting especially where the PCC is small.

Commended for PCC members reading in preparation;

The paper presented to open Diocesan Synod on 13th March which can be read [here](#), if this could be read please, in conjunction.

It should be read in conjunction with the vision statement presented to The General Synod in November of last year which is available [here](#).

Links for further information on; [A vision for The Church of England in the 2020's](#), and the Diocesan [Next Steps](#) pages."

8. A.O.B.

Elections for Diocesan Synod

House of Laity – Louisa Fox, Matthew King, 2 vacancies.

House of Clergy – Helen Gill, 5 vacancies

It is Martin Lee's last Deanery Synod. He is going to Dorset to be Rector of Sherborne Abbey. The Deanery thanked him for all that he had done as Vicar of St Bartholomew's and as a former Area Dean. We send our thanks, love and prayers to him, Sue and the whole family. His last Sunday is the 22nd August. His Induction will be on the 16th Sept and he will send a link for the livestream.

Ordinations – Yvette and Alan are to be priested on 3rd July we send our congratulations to them.

Dates for Future Deanery Synod Meetings: - Tuesday 21st Sept at 7.30pm and Thursday 11th Nov at 7.30pm