

# **Wiverton in the Vale APCM 30 April 2018**

## **Deanery Report**

Since our last APCM(s) EBDS has met as Synod on three occasions.

- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at All Saints Cotgrave
- 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at St Thomas' Aslockton
- 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at St Mary the Virgin Plumtree

### **Deanery Events during the last 12 months**

Thy Kingdom Come Event Willoughby: April 2017

Deanery Confirmation: June 2017

Deanery Alpha Course: September to December 2017

Meeting of Lay Reps: March 2018

### **The business of the EBDS in the last 12 months has centred on the following issues:**

1. Engaging with the diocesan plans for growing new disciples Wider Younger and deeper including involvement in the Archdeacon's Mapping initiative
2. A drive to encourage Churches across the Deanery to meet the Parish Share and meeting with PCC's across the Deanery
3. Beginning the process of reviewing how the Deanery Share is allocated
4. Meeting the challenge faced by three of our largest benefices as they moved into and out of interregna - Bingham, Radcliffe and The Cranmer Group
5. A drive to encourage more engagement from Lay Members and breaking down parish boundaries

Much of the work of the Deanery is performed by the Deanery's Standing Committee the Deanery Administrator, The Lay Chair and the Interim Area Dean.

Those on the Deanery Standing Committee: The Area Dean, The Lay Chair, Reverends Hippisley-Cox , Wood and Massey. Gordon Marsh (Cotgrave) , Lesley Haigh (Kinoulton) (lay members elected by Synod). We have recently been joined by Tony Darby, Warden at Plumtree.

Our report records the highlights from the 3 Synod meetings. Should PCC members require any further information I will be at the APCM on the 30<sup>th</sup> April to answer any questions.

## Meeting 15 June 2017

The meeting heard a presentation from our guest speaker Peter Stanley. Peter sits on Bishops Council, is a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee and Treasurer of the Bassetlaw and Bawtry Deanery. Peter is well informed on matters of Deanery and Parish Share and is the author of the 'Finance Best Practice Guide' a Diocesan publication advising PCC's and Treasurers on how to meet the challenge of paying the Parish Share. The key points of Peter's presentation were:

- Everyone on the PCC is responsible for the finances of the church – not just the Treasurer;
- Budgets should support the mission of the church. Best practice is to prepare budgets over a three to five year period rather than for just one year and to monitor progression against the budget;
- 100% of parish share payment should be a priority for the church;
- Free consultancy on funding campaigns is available from the Diocese;
- Thank people who give to the church every year;
- Encourage people to give by standing order;
- Claim Gift Aid every quarter ;
- PCC Treasurers should present accounts at every PCC meeting and PCCs should be encouraged to ask questions;
- Consider using water meters and get all meters read regularly;
- Consider the use of solar panels on the church;
- Use the parish resources buying website.

An update was given on Deanery appointments.

**Bingham** - In Interregnum.

**Cranmer Group** - we learnt Rev'd Bryony Wood would be leaving us at the end of July to take up a new appointment in Market Harborough also that at

**Radcliffe** - Rev'd Canon Mark Tanner had been appointed

**Deanery Synod Elections were held and went as follows: Deanery Lay Chair -**

One nomination was received for this role from Steve Gelsthorpe. Steve was therefore re-elected as Lay Chair for the next three years. **Deanery Treasurer** - No nominations were received for this role. (This vacancy still exists and if any PCC member might like to consider taking on the role that would be a real blessing - see details later in this report)

**Standing Committee Members** - Clergy nominations were received from Rev'd Stephen Hippisley-Cox and Rev'd Paul Massey and Lay nominations from Lesley Haig and Gordon Marsh. All were re-elected as Standing Committee members for the next three years.

**We had reports from Bryony Wood regarding Mission Matters and a report on behalf of the Mustard Seed Group was given by Kathryn Bacon**

Bryony gave details about 'Roots on the Web' which provides weekly resources to enrich worship and learning within the whole church community. This can be found at [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) An 'Essential guide to effective church communications' has been issued to all clergy.

Two donations of £500 were given to the deanery for the purchase of holding crosses. Bryony read out two accounts relating to people who had received a holding cross.

**Mustard Seed Prayer Group** meets monthly to pray for all church congregations, parishes, and the deanery. Please see Kathryn for further details on the group which is well thought of and prayed into by +Paul.

Synod then heard a finance report and reports were also given by the Diocesan Synod Rep and the Area Dean

## **Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Our guest speaker was Matt Sanderson who gave us a presentation on the work of the Christians against Poverty Group**

Matt introduced the work of CAP, which was founded in 1996 by John Kirkby following his own experience of coming to faith after losing everything he had. His book "Nevertheless" tells the story of CAP now 21 Years old (free copies available from the Deanery Administrator.)

The work of CAP is grounded in Luke 4.18 and seeks to share the Gospel (proclaim the good news of freedom from poverty) and offer practical help to those in debt or on the verge of it.

2/3 of all Credit card debt in the EU is in the UK, approx £68.7 billion.

Of the people who seek help from CAP: many report children not sleeping because Mum and Dad are arguing about money; 78% say their relationship has been affected by debt; 1 in 4 report marriage breakdown; 75% are on medication for stress; 2/3 report missing meals 2 in 5 consider suicide.

CAP works by partnering with churches to create "Debt centres" to direct people to debt counsellors. Practical help is given from CAP counsellors eg teaching budgeting; talking to creditors; stopping interest. During the process local Christians will walk alongside those in debt to support and proclaim the gospel. CAP helps churches to fulfil its mission to the poor.

Over 300 churches are running debt centres.

CAP is also involved with Job centres (172 now). Getting into debt is often related to educational failure, addiction, poor life skills. So the Job centres help with writing CV's; giving up life controlling habits, creating healthy habits. CAP Job centres get referrals from DWP trying to reach the long term unemployed. CAP has a 33% success rate. Churches offer care and support. The Release Groups working alongside the Job centres have a 12 step programme (a bit like Alcoholics

Anonymous) showing that the higher power is Jesus, emphasising self-worth, hearing what God says?

CAP offers a Money course, 750 churches are running this.

CAP also speaks on behalf of those who can't speak for themselves and contact parliament to influence government policy.

### **Synod then heard about the appointments and clergy interregna**

Jonathan Wright had been appointed at Bingham and Bryony Wood had left the Cranmer Group for pastures new near Market Harborough.

Synod learnt that Anne Henderson had resigned as the Deanery Administrator and tribute was paid to her for all that she had done for the Deanery particularly over the last 4 years

**Diocesan Synod Report** was given by Bron and it might be instructive for the PCC to hear on developments generally at a Diocesan level

Bron reported that Diocesan Synod met on 14 October 2017. She told us of **Bishop Paul's address** on "The creative tensions of a missional church". Intense & meticulous planning; Profligate & attentive availability; all drenched in prayer.

1. Gratitude and Grit: the balance between the generosity of God and the grit of determination
2. Strategy and Spontaneity Planning but being opening to opportunities which come though prayer
3. Hope and Humility: confident hope in Chris to be reflected in our lives but also reflecting on the humility of Christ.
4. Prayer and Praxis: understanding action and the prayer which underpins it.

In all 4 we need both and; ie skills and gifts

Other developments at a Diocesan level:

- We heard that a 2<sup>nd</sup> grant had been received from the national Strategic Development Fund.
- Appointment of an Associate Archdeacon for Transition Ministry (The Revd Canon Phil Williams, formerly Area Dean of Gedling and Vicar of St James Porchester
- Appointment of the Revd David Emerton as Principal of the School of Discipleship especially aimed at Lay Development to launch in 2018
- Appointment of 17 new clergy in the last 12 months
- Growing cohort of curates: largest and youngest for 20 years.
- More people doing JiF

**Reports** were then given by Lesley Haigh on behalf of Mustard Seed, a Finance report and Bron gave an Area Dean's Report

## **Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

**Our Guest Speaker** was David Keetley is the Youth Ministry Adviser for Youth Development. He runs the Generate project which organises Deanery and Diocesan Events ideally for children in Year 7 and older (age 11 upwards) but Year 6 children also attend. He explained that in the past, youth events had happened where the majority of young people lived, often as a follow-up to Confirmation. Consequently, many young people missed out on activities. Young people had also been encouraged to bring their non-believing friends to meetings which they found difficult. Discussions with youth workers and young people had shown that what was actually wanted was the opportunity to meet, discuss, learn and worship with like-minded people, at fixed venues that were planned well in advance.

Generate works with local teams to plan, promote and develop youth work in Parish across the Diocese that will grow faith Deeper within young believers.

### **Update on Deanery and Clergy appointments/interregnum**

The Area Dean welcomed Rev'd John Wright (Bingham) and Rev'd Mark Tanner (Radcliffe) both of whom had been recently licensed. The Cranmer Group is still in interregnum and Parish Reps are working with Rev'd Canon Phil Williams to develop the Parish Profile.

Dr Judith Mills our new Deanery Administrator was warmly welcomed to Synod and we are pleased to say she is quickly finding her feet in her new role.

**The Lay Chair outlined the requirements for GDPR** which include producing an inventory of data kept and a Privacy Policy about how it is used. He reminded Synod that it is the responsibility of the incumbent to ensure that the new regulations are followed, and that GDPR should be on PCC and APGM agendas.

### **Vacancies on Standing Committee**

The Lay Chair had received a Nomination Form for Tony Darby. Synod unanimously elected him to Standing Committee.

There remains two Clergy vacancies and one Laity vacancy on Standing Committee. In particular the role of Deanery Treasurer needs to be filled. The Dean emphasised that it is not a book-keeping role, there is no preparation of accounts or handling of money. The purpose of Treasurer is to represent the Deanery at IDFF; support the Area Dean and Lay Chair in the oversight of Deanery Share, and assist in the review of Deanery Share Allocation during 2018, preparing for 2019.

### **We heard Good news!**

Gordon Marsh (Cotgrave) reported on the *Memory Café*, a community project at All Saints, Cotgrave for sufferers of dementia and their supporters. Each meeting has a theme and activities such as looking at artefacts, videos and talks that stimulate

memory. There is a tea and each meeting ends with a sing-song as music is very important part of dementia therapy. The group has grown from 9 to 50 participants.

Rev'd Stephen Hippisley-Cox reported on community activities at Willoughby on the Wolds, Wysall and Widmerpool which aim to break down the barriers and encourage non-church-goers across the doorstep. These include a fashion show and a wine tasting evening. Not only have they attracted a lot of interested but also been good fund-raising opportunities.

Lesley Haig spoke about the Mustard Seed group. Since it began two years ago, it has increased the number of venues where it meets. This not only ensures that the whole Deanery is covered but also builds bridges between parishes. It meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month between 2 and 3.30pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 20 February at East Bridgford. Other venues are Bingham and Kinoulton.

## **Overarching Issues**

### **Parish and Deanery Share**

The Deanery continues to fall behind in terms of meeting its financial obligations to the Diocese and in the financial year 31 December 2017 had met 80.2% of the amount allocated.

The Area Dean and Lay Chair visited a number of PCC's across the Deanery to discover what the issues were and these might be summarised as

- Folk running hard just to stand still
- A deep suspicion over the amounts prescribed by the Diocese
- The fabric of the Church is sadly viewed as the priority
- A lack of appreciation of why the Parish Share is asked for and where the money goes
- In some areas of the Deanery a sense of them and us with not a sniff of or nod towards the generous nature of our God!

As a result of their visits the Standing Committee has decided to press ahead with a Deanery review of how the Deanery Share is allocated to parishes and benefices as it is becoming clear that the Mission Partnership approach adopted in 2012 and affirmed in 2015 is not working.

Standing Committee had hoped that this might also be considered alongside the announcement by the Diocese following its review of the Deanery Share allocation. This was due to be announced at Diocesan Synod last week but has been put back yet again due to "issues" over the methodology used. Whilst disappointing it does not deflect however from the work we need to do in The Deanery and we will press ahead with that – a meeting is fixed for May for incumbents and treasurers to plan a way forward.

### Meeting of lay members of Synod

As an antidote to the pressure to pay the Parish Share as well as having the irksome responsibility of having to challenge folk as to why its not been met the Lay Chair has for some time been wanting lay members to engage more with each other to reach out, to break down Parish Walls and to see if we can make the life and work of the Deanery a more pleasant and fulfilling experience away from that particular topic.

We set out below the letter sent to all reps which sets out some of the thinking behind the event:

Further to Steve's announcement at Synod last week you are warmly invited to attend a session for all lay members at St Andrew's Church Langar starting at **7.00pm on the 26th March**

Many of you have been on Deanery Synod for quite some time, others less so and are still finding their feet. Whether you have been on Synod many years or just a few months there is every chance that from time to time you ask yourself some searching questions:

- What's the Deanery all about?
- What does it sit in terms of the Church hierarchy?
- How can I make it work better for my Church or Benefice?
- How can we make Synod meetings more meaningful?
- What should I be doing between Synod meetings?
- Surely it's about more than Deanery/Parish share?

So as to help answer these as well as to help you explore opportunities for your Church and benefice to get more from the Deanery and grow disciples the Standing Committee hopes that you will see this as a good investment of your time. We will also want to discuss ways of improving communication between churches across mission partnership, benefice and parish boundaries.

Standing Committee hopes that as many as of you as possible will take this opportunity to attend so you can be heard as well as listen. Please do not think it will be another Deanery Synod meeting – the evening will be interactive with folk splitting in to small discussion groups and reporting back. This is a non-clergy event and your reps on Standing Committee will by the end of the session have a much better feel for what the laity wants from its Deanery. Rest assured they will have no reservations about expressing those at Diocesan level. It is intended that the meeting will not extend beyond 9.00pm and refreshments in the form of tea coffee

I am delighted to say that at the meeting held in Easter week was a great success.

Twenty-two Deanery reps attended representing fourteen parishes and benefices. (2/3 of the Synod lay membership). This was hugely impressive bearing in mind we had not tried this sort of thing before and should give Synod the confidence to repeat

the exercise later in the year. The levels of energy and excitement generated suggested a real appetite.

The Lay Reps on Deanery Standing Committee have been tasked with assimilating all the comments and suggestions that came out of the three sessions. At the time of writing they are due to meet in a couple of days time and hope to prepare a report which can be first presented to standing committee and then to full Synod as well. A lot of ideas and themes emerged. We will report back at the next PCC meeting

### **In conclusion**

We hope that in setting out in detail the “goings-on” at Deanery level over the last 12 months and by reporting back to you what you would have heard at Synod meetings had you been there yourself you will get a flavour for what is happening across our Deanery. We make no apologies as to its length and hope that it covers those matters that PCC members are interested in. Questions will be happily taken at the meeting.

Thank you.

**Your Synod Reps**  
**29 April 2018**