

# East Bingham Deanery Synod Meeting

Thursday 15 February 2018, St Mary's Church, Plumtree

## 1. **Welcome**

The Area Dean, The Revd Canon Bronwen Gamble, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the volunteers for the splendid tea. She introduced the speaker for the evening, David Keetley and Judith Mills, the new Deanery Administrator. Judith explained that she had taken up the role of Administrator on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, so Synod was her first opportunity to meet many people. She does not live in the Deanery but works from home (Kelham) where she is a reasonably active member of her own parish. She perceives that an important part of her role is to ensure smooth communications channels between the Diocese and Parishes – in both directions.

The Rev'd Trevor Kirkman then opened the meeting with a prayer, mentioning, in particular, the work of the 11<sup>th</sup> century Englishman Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden and missionary (died 1045) and Thomas Bray (died 1730) Priest and Founder of the SPCK and the SPG, whose commemorations fall on 15 February.

## 2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from

- Clergy: Rev'd Maggie Woodward (Kinoulton) and Rev'd Rachel Mitchell (Radcliffe)
- Laity: Colin Slater (General Synod Rep.), Liz Stratton (Aslockton), Richard Marquiss (Aslockton), Capt. Alan Cooper (Bingham), Tony Rayner (Kneeton), Irene Staton (Orston) Fiona Carruthers (Plumtree), Martin Skeffington (Radcliffe), Janet Baines (Stanton on the Wolds)

During the meeting a 'signing-up' sheet was circulated; all attendees were asked to confirm their contact details and amend/correct the sheet as necessary.

## 3. **Guest Speaker**

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 Parishes across the Diocese that will grow faith **Deeper** within young believers.

The schedule for a 'typical' *Generate* event is:

- 5 pm team arrives, sets up room, begins to prepare food
- 6 pm doors open
- 6-7 pm café-style social with games, food and other activities that encourage people to talk and get to know each other
- 7-8 pm worship and teaching time
- 8 pm departure
- 8-9 pm team clears up and leaves

Recently, teaching sessions have explored questions such as "What is the Trinity?" and "What is the Creed?". The discussions have sought to explain and ensure a full understanding of what the words mean and how they apply to everyday life.

Some worship and teaching sessions are led by young people but it is recognised that not everyone wants to lead; some prefer to listen and absorb, so there is no pressure put on young people, but they are encouraged to express their faith in their own way. For example, some young people from Newstead have started a band which supports the group's worship.

*Generate* also participates in the 'Transform Weekend' in July, organising fun but engaging activities.

The ideal venue for a *Generate* has

- A venue with 2 spaces – one for social activities and one for worship and teaching; changing venue changes the dynamic within the group
- Parking – for parents to drop-off and pick-up
- A team of volunteers willing to give their time to work with David.

However, these are ideals and *Generate* can work around local conditions. Events are usually mid-week and begin at 6pm, but other times and days are possible – whatever works for the local team. David's role is to bring his own experience of youth work and some budget. He can also help with equipment and technical support.

David Keetley's email address is: [david.keetley@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:david.keetley@southwell.anglican.org)

Dates and venues for forthcoming *Generate* events are on the Diocesan website:

<http://southwell.anglican.org/education/youngpeople/events-training/generate-2016-2017/>

Rev'd Stephen Hippisley-Cox gave the Vote of Thanks on behalf of Synod.

The Area Dean urged people to consider how our deanery might host a *Generate* event

4. **Minutes and action points from the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Synod meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting were corrected to show that Christopher Paul had attended, and two typographical errors were amended. They were then signed as a true Record. There were no matters arising.

5. **Update on Deanery Clergy appointments/interregnum**

The Area Dean welcomed The Rev'd John Wright (licensed to Bingham December 2017 Bingham) and The Rev'd Mark Tanner (licensed to Radcliffe September 2017) both of whom had been recently licensed. The Cranmer Group is still in interregnum this being their first Deanery Synod attended since their respective licensing.

The Parish Reps of the Cranmer Benefice (in interregnum) are working with The Rev'd Canon Phil Williams (Associate Archdeacon for Transition) to develop the Parish Profile.

6. **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

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.

The Rev'd Stephen Hippisley-Cox remarked that the new regulations are easier for some parishes to implement than others and recommended that a Benefice Privacy Policy be developed first, which individual parishes within the benefice would then adopt.

However, there was some concern about some of the requirements and a lack of clarity in the guidelines on the Website (<http://southwell.anglican.org/church-life/general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>). Safeguarding was raised as an area of concern.

**ACTION POINT:** all questions about GDPR should be sent to the Area Dean and Lay Chair, who will compile a list of concerns and pass them on to Jubilee House.

7. **Vacancies on Standing Committee**

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

There remain two Clergy vacancies and one Laity vacancy on Standing Committee. In particular, the role of Deanery Treasurer needs to be filled. The Area 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 (as requested by deanery Synod in 2015), preparing for 2019.

**ACTION POINT:** All Synod is encouraged to consider nomination for Standing Committee and Laity Members to decide whether they can support the Area Dean by becoming Deanery Treasurer.

**8. Lay Chair's meeting with Lay Representatives of Deanery Synod**

The Lay Chair confirmed that there will be a meeting of Lay Representatives 26 March 2018, at Langar, beginning at 7pm. It will end no later than 9pm. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ways of improving communication between churches, improve learning between churches and explore ways to change the emphasis of Synod meetings away from Parish Share.

**9. Sharing Good News**

Gordon Marsh reported on the *Memory Café* for people living with dementia and their supporters. This is a joint project between All Saints, Cotgrave and the Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club. They meet on the last Thursday of each month between 2pm-4pm. Each meeting has a theme and activities such as looking at artefacts, videos and talks which stimulate memory. There is a tea and the meetings end with a sing-song as music is very important part of dementia therapy. The group has grown from 9 to 50 participants over a period of 3 years.

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.

The Area Dean asked for volunteers from other parishes to come forward to share good news at the next Synod.

**10. Sharing Inspirational Resources**

Stephen Hippisley-Cox reported on the New Revised Standard Version Bible which can be downloaded to iPhones from the App Store for £1. He demonstrated the audio version read by John Banks, which was well received.

**11. Forthcoming Deanery events**

The list of dates circulated with the Agenda was amended because too few people had been able to make any of the suggested dates for the Mapping Exercise and Parish Share

Allocation meetings. Instead, those involved in the meetings will be asked to give preferences for a series of dates in May.

**ACTION POINT:** The Deanery Administrator to circulate dates and update the diary sheet in due course.

The Area Dean drew Synod's attention to the *Refresh in Lent* evenings being led by Bishop Paul. Initially intended for Church leaders, they are open to all. The closest venue for East Bingham Deanery is St Giles in West Bridgford although other venues and dates are accessible.

## 12. Finance – including Parish Share 2018

### *Deanery Bank Account:*

Balance at last Synod meeting was £5804.12

Balance as at 5 February is £5604.12.

This represents £200 paid to Bingham for heating the Hall for the Alpha Course.

There is a further £165.25 to be deducted for Alpha Course costs met by the Area Dean while the bank account signatories were sorted out.

After deducting this amount, the balance is £5438.87.

The budget for the Alpha Course was £500. The total cost exceeded the budget but donations received totalled £361, plus the cost of books/printing was met by a Deanery Synod member. As a result, the course came in under budget.

### *Deanery Share:*

The Lay Chair reported that the total contribution to Deanery Share for 2017 was £537,102 which represented 80% of the total allocation. This is down on the 2016 figure when 86% of allocation was achieved.

To date (Feb 2018) 5.3% of the allocation has been contributed compared to 6.2% at the same point in 2017.

The new formula for calculating Deanery Share effective for 2019 will soon be agreed by Bishop's Council and hopefully a decision will be made in time to inform discussions at the Deanery Parish Share Allocation meeting which will meet at the end of May (date to be identified – see Item 11 above).

## 13. Area Dean's Report

The Area Dean thanked all who had submitted their Mission Statistics – the three remaining Parishes were asked to submit as soon as possible. The Administrator can help with the submission if needed.

Synod was asked how many people had been able to attend Bishop Paul's sessions on Generosity and Growing Disciples. Many people had not been able to attend either because they were not aware of the meetings or the notice given was too short. It was suggested that the video made of Bishop Paul's presentation might either be played at the next Synod or distributed to PCC's to play at one of their meetings.

The problem of very short timescales for being notified of events was raised.

**ACTION POINT:** The Area Dean and the Deanery Administrator will report concerns through their reporting streams.

The Area Dean asked if everyone had received the 'Giving for Life' pack. This should be included on PCC agendas. Tony Brown can provide packs.

Bishop Paul's presentation on Generosity and Growing Disciples had been particularly well received.

**ACTION POINT:** The Deanery Administrator was asked to write to the Bishop affirming the Deanery's support.

Finally, the Area Dean drew Synod's attention to the events taking place between Ascension Day and Pentecost (10-20 May 2018) as part of *Thy Kingdom Come*. She asked what East Bingham Deanery can contribute?

Events can be listed on the *Thy Kingdom Come* website [https://www.thykingdomcome.global/search/events?event\\_type\\_id=1&searchevent-submit](https://www.thykingdomcome.global/search/events?event_type_id=1&searchevent-submit) and you can search for events on the same site.

**ACTION POINT:** suggestions for Deanery events to the Area Dean

**14. Dates of Next Synod meetings:**

Thursday 14 June, Willoughby on the Wolds,  
Thursday 18 October, Bingham  
Both begin at 7pm for 7.30pm

The Area Dean led Synod in a closing prayer.