



Scarborough Deanery Synod

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Open Meeting “**Living Christ’s Story**”

St Marks Church, Newby, 09/02/2022

Meeting opened at 19.33 with a reading from Philippians 2: 1 – 8, and with prayers, including Living Christ’s Story prayer.

Present 104 people attended names on file

Apologies Rev. J. Madin, Hildegard Smart, Fr David Dixon, Sue Truefitt

Presentation – “*Living Christ’s Story: Setting the Framework for Deanery Planning*”

The Ven. Andy Broom, Archdeacon of the East Riding

The presentation encompassed a summary of the recently completed “Living Christ’s Story” survey completed throughout the diocese and, with responses having been examined, the practical responses and applications were discussed. Focus was given to the importance of prayer and God throughout this process.

We aim to achieve a clear and decisive vision, incorporating imagination and boldness to aid more people in knowing Christ and being part of his church.

A steady, considered 10-year plan is proposed to; drive growth in health & numbers, allow the release & renewal of ministry, and the transformation of structures & finances, with the plan to be developed at a Deanery level and including targeted investment (strategic or financial) based on individual needs and strengths.

Responses included making changes to reduce the burden on Clergy & other ministers, and sharing expertise across deaneries or ministry units, and better managing diocesan finances. DLT’s have been asked to engage with all parishes to create a plan for health and growth, with a suggested consultation timeline to be concluded by August/ September and plans submitted to the Diocese.

Questions

Change of approach to investment – sale of property to supplement income – is this a national approach or a local one? As yet no, it’s a York policy, based on requirements within our diocese, and aimed to generate and drive growth.

Getting smaller, getting older – ambitious plans within the parish to reorder and generate a community hub but circumstances have reduced footfall and finance – how can we engage with this?

The situation is not unusual, and this is something that needs considering in the context of the individual church – is there perhaps scope to engage and collaborate with other local benefices that we might team up with and work together or adjust your focus. Healthy churches – consider the

focus “do less but do it well” and alter the traditional perceived role and expectations of a parish church.

Archbishop talks about simplifying structures and taking a bolder approach but no evidence of this as yet – can you provide more details? There are some things about the legalities that cannot be worked around which does cause frustrations, but we are making changes, and these may become clearer... this is a work in progress – for example the creation of joint PCC’s across multiple parishes can now take as little as 3 months.

How has LCS informed today’s presentation? If we work in prayer to become more like Christ, we believe everything (the 4 values) will fall into place.

Why has this meeting been arranged now Bishop Alison is retiring? Will the plans from this consultation still be implemented with the new bishop? Unfortunate coincidence and timeline clash, but there is a commitment to follow these plans. They will not be disregarded. If you have an idea we can find a way to bless it.

Growing Missionary disciples – what does this look like to you? We are all disciples – anyone who knows Christ and follows him is. This is the growth of courage and confidence in faith, and the ability and skills to share His Word amongst others, and engaging others in conversation and consideration of faith.

Summary by Rev. Samantha Taylor

A request was shared from the DLT for a meeting with PCC’s to discuss and hear their needs and concerns so that the Deanery Plan can be tailored appropriately. Details will be provided at the next chapter meeting, and opportunities for the Laity to meet and share ideas will be provided – suggestions were welcomed.

The process will be ongoing and require multiple meetings, not just now but during the implementation of the deanery plan. Rev. Taylor suggested collaborative projects (e.g., youth work, wedding prep, baptism prep) activities can be done together rather than independently to pool resources and skills.

Our greatest resource is prayer.

Ros Brewer further asked about interest in Lay coffee mornings to discuss collaborations.

The Ven. Andy Broom closed with prayer at 21.00