

Midsomer Norton Deanery Synod

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 22nd February 2017 St John's Midsomer Norton

Members present., Revd Tom Benyon, Revd Martin Blewett, Revd Chris Chiplin, Jane Cox, Revd Clarissa Cridland, Gay Curtis, Barrymore Dando, Mary Dolman, Bill Drake-Brockman, Revd Guy Edwards, Ann Gardiner-Bryan, Margaret Holcombe, Cliff Husband, Penny Hutton, Revd David Izzard, Revd Chris North, Ann Meloy, Esther Parker, Revd Gordon Ripley, Heather Robinson, Revd Ian Rousell, Phillida Russell, Robin Singh, Jane Street, Lynda Townshend, Nigel Wood,

Apologies., Heather Allen, Mary Barnes, Dorothy Bull, John Golding, Revd Caroline Husband, Gary Kerr, Cynthia Mason, Revd Mathew Street, Colin Tincknell, Jo Vening

1. The evening began with a welcome and worship from Revd Chris Chiplin and a welcome to Revd David Izzard and Revd Ian Rousell
2. The minutes if the last meeting were approved

3. Parish Analysis and Deanery Strength & Weakness Discussion

Revd Chris North announced that the Deanery and Pastoral Committee has had the first meeting, and confirmed the Diocese is committed to the current number of clergy. The next Committee meeting will be in September and for the meeting it was agreed it would be good to have a more thorough understanding of the current Deanery, including the strengths and weaknesses perceive din the churches and therefore the Deanery.

For this, a form was sent out with the agenda for this meeting covering such analysis, members had completed these and the synod discussed the views in smaller groups representing a cross section of the area. The high level information was discussed by the whole group to provide an overview, the main areas are shown below

Strengths

- Hospitality
- Sociable
- Generosity of time and money
- Loyalty
- Hard work

Weaknesses

- Buildings & maintenance
- Lack of time
- Location
- Too few people (doing too much!)
- Lack of Resources
- No unity between parishes
- Few younger members
- Managing change – holding on to the past

The individual completed forms were collected by Chris to allow for further review and analysis for forthcoming meeting of both the Committee and Deanery.

4. Thy Kingdome Come

Revd Chris North asked about this initiative from Archbishops' of Canterbury and York and requested the churches in the Deanery to consider what they can do or are doing and to let him know.

5. Food Bank Update

The Food Bank is currently looking for a new Chair and other volunteers would be welcome to work in the various parts of the operation. Demand for vouchers remains strong but there is a good supply of food and provisions.

A big thank you for all the support from the churches involved.

6. Rural Dean notices

Chris mentioned that the current three year Deanery Synod will be coming to an end in April and churches will be electing new synod members at the upcoming APCM.

It was announced that the Deanery Treasurer and Secretary will be stepping down at this time.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 12th June – the venue to be confirmed.