

## **Notes from Deanery Synod meeting 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

Madeleine opened the meeting with apologies for a shortened agenda due to the previous meeting overrunning by 30 minutes.

### **Welcome**

**Rev Crystal McAlistair (Interim Oversight Minister) was welcomed to the meeting.**

**Opening Worship** was led by Keith Evans (Billesdon)

### **Business**

#### **Apologies for Synod 15th July 2025 noted as being received**

Wendy Lewis - Deanery Administrator

Maxine Johnson - Church Langton

Sue Johnson - Church Langton

Michael Hammond - Great Easton

Rachel Crisp - Loddington

Sue Marlow - Thorpe Langton

Wendy Edmond - Slawston

Rudy Ike - Cold Overton

Revd Alison Myers - Launde Abbey

Vera Williams – Shangton

Wendy Rhodes – Welham

### **Approval of previous minutes/ Matters arising**

*Madeleine proposed that the meeting accept the minutes with an understanding there was some ambiguity and acknowledging that there was no vote on the second proposal.*

### **No written questions were received**

Crystal was invited to introduce herself and take questions.

Presently living in Melton Mowbray with her son Olly, daughter Daisy and dog named Bear.

She has been working as Associate and Pioneer Minister in the Farmland Deanery, enabling pioneering and Fresh Expressions initiatives, those involved are now helping to support each other, some of those involved have now trained as Pioneers.

Some examples include: Windmill Forest Church (families), Cafe Church (simple bible passage, book and ending with prayer), Pizza & Ponder (for young people)

### **Future Planning**

Her plans during the next 10 weeks include visiting each church to meet people. She is keen to hear good news stories, to encourage improvements in communications, use of the MC website, consider forms of social media that are more attractive to younger people, and encourage thinking 'outside the box'

For the newly appointed OM a new service pattern across the MC that is realistic and manageable must be implemented when the appointment of an intergenerational minister is made, which would focus on implementing discipleship pathways and the growth of children's and young people's ministry across the MC.

Crystal encourages: people to join the Community of Practice monthly on Monday evenings at Launde Abbey, where we pray, learn and share ideas together; people to contact her directly with questions, comments, good stories and *"If you need to be heard, come and I will listen"*

### **Safeguarding**

Crystal stated the importance of safeguarding awareness and acknowledged the negative feedback to the Diocese on Face to face training content and delivery, which needs to be set and operated in a rural context. Good safeguarding co-ordination is essential. A Safeguarding Audit was recommended.

### **Other notices**

Time limited funding that enabled Wendy to increase her hours last year has now ended. Wendy Lewis's hours have been reduced accordingly, and her working days are Tuesday during school hours and Thursday mornings. To assist with reducing Wendy's workload, the chair asked people to avoid, where appropriate, copying Wendy Lewis into circulated emails.

The chair asked that anyone interested in joining the Community of Practice meeting contact her directly. Places are normally limited to 15 people attending.

### **The dates of the next Synod meetings were agreed**

### **The meeting ended with prayer**