



## LAUNDE DEANERY SYNOD

### Minutes of Launde Deanery Synod Meeting – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Tilton-on-the-Hill Village Hall 19:30

#### 1. PRESENT:

Revd Canon Jonathan Dowman (Co-Chair)	Madeleine Wang (Tugby)(Co-Chair)
Revd Jayne Lewis (Co-Area Dean)	Canon Shayne Ardron (Diocese)
Revd David Palmer (Pioneer Priest)	Hilary Painter (Gaulby)
Mary Weston (Shangton)	Joanne Wilkinson (Gaulby)
Kim Melville (Hungarton)	Susan Johnson (Skeffington)
John and Mary Twidell (Horninghold)	Valerie Chouler (Skeffington)
Edward Davis (Lowsby)	Barbara Preston (Skeffington)
Simon Hammond (Owston)	David Holland (Skeffington)
Keith Evans (Billesdon)	Jane Sharp (Stonton Wyville)
Rudy Ike (Cold Overton)	Sandra Leeson (Tilton on the Hill)
John Dyson (East Norton)	Liz Auterson (Tilton on the Hill)
	Kathy Letts (Tilton on the Hill)
Wendy Lewis (Deanery Secretary)	

#### Apologies:

Maxine Johnson (Church Langton)	Revd Alison Myers
Christopher Weston (Tur Langton, also Deanery Synod rep for Shangton)	Roger Jackson (Slawston)
Andrea and Patrick Beddows (East Norton)	Margaret Tuffs (Medbourne)
Rachel Crisp, Loddington	Sue Sills (Knossington)
Revd Canon Jeff Hopewell	Liz Sanders (Knossington)
Revd Canon Philip Norwood	Brian Kearvell-White (Glooston)
Janet Doughty (Tugby)	Gill Pawley (Tugby)
Victoria Buckingham (Hallaton)	

#### 2. OPENING WORSHIP: EVENING PRAYER

The meeting opened with an act of worship led by Revd David Palmer. He read from Matthew 14 – the feeding of the 5000 and spoke of a time in Zambia when God provided. God is a generous God who will bring all we need if we bring our churches to Him.

#### 3.2 MINUTES OF DEANERY SYNOD 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

The minutes were taken as read.

Approved.

#### 3.3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

None.

#### 3.4 WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

None.



### 3.5 DEANERY REPORTS AND PUBLISHED REPORTS

Jonathan Dowman referred to the report from the meeting of the Treasurers from across the Deanery which was attended by Phil Leach, the Diocesan Generous Giving Officer on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. He reported that the meeting had given an opportunity for Treasurers to meet up and support each other and hear from Phil about finance at the Diocesan level as well as find ways of working together. One area suggested is church insurance. It was acknowledged that it may take considerable time to research and organise joint insurance but that this could be beneficial to all. It was also mentioned that some churches have noticeboards with incorrect contact information.

**ACTION: All to check information on church noticeboards and to contact Jonathan Dowman or Jayne Lewis to find out whose name to add as a clergy contact.**

Wendy Lewis has replaced Sarah Longhill as Deanery Treasurer and gave an update on the Deanery account which at the end of December had a balance of £537.71. The account is used to pay for the hire of hall for Synod meetings and it was noted that due to the change in staff in 2023 the majority of subscriptions to the Deanery have not been paid. WL will request these shortly and Hilary Painter, who is a current signatory to the account, gave details of the account:

The Launde Deanery Sort code: 40-32-04 Account no: 21856588.
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JD gave an update on Growing Faith and spoke of his work in the 4 Church of England schools within the Deanery and the family services in Tur Langton and Hallaton. It was noted that Billesdon and Tugby churches are wanting to begin working with families with their villages. JL thanked him for his work.

MW provided an update from Leicester Diocese including outlining discussions at the recent Bishop's Council held in January. The Diocese is currently seeking direction for its strategy based on the 3 questions relating to making disciples, growing the depth of discipleship and serving the local community. The Bishops Council in January had discussed policy formation including a Net Zero Carbon Strategy and Racial Equality at Diocesan level and progress on its governance review. Shayne Ardron spoke about ways in which biodiversity can be encouraged within churchyards. This led on to a wider discussion around sustainability/ eco-church and JL referred to this being the subject of her provision to the Deanery Minster Community for Lent.

JL raised the aim to achieve Deanery Minster Community-wide oversight of Safeguarding and requested that Parishes pass on information as to who their Safeguarding Officers are to WL so that a central list can be collated. MT suggested that details of Parish Safeguarding Officers could be added to church noticeboards. JL will work with safeguarding Co-ordinators to encourage and support the meeting of safeguarding requirements at Parish level.

**ACTION: All Parishes to send details of Safeguarding Officers to WL (copied to JL) to put together a list of contacts for Safeguarding.**

JL pointed out that many very positive reports had been received from Parishes about their Christmas services and events. It was noted how very popular they had been within village communities.



WL spoke about the work she has been doing with A Church Near You and offered help with these sites for individual Parishes. Existing editors need to give access to their sites if they would like help.

**ACTION:** *Parishes to decide whether help is wanted with their A Church Near You pages.*

#### **4. CHURCH ROLES AND FUNCTIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN RURAL PARISHES WITHIN THE DEANERY MINSTER COMMUNITY**

JD gave an update on Church Descriptors and pointed out that there were many common themes – locally engaged, heritage building and local pastoral congregations were mentioned by many as being important to their Parishes. The Descriptors give an opportunity to consider where a Parish is currently and where it wants to be, helping to give vision. It informs a Parish's heart and soul and can form the basis of the invitation to the local community to come and join.

JD invited discussion, asking the question: "If Bishop Martyn Snow was to come and spend time talking to you, what would you say about where you want to be in 2 years time? What is your vision and direction?" JL and JD asked parishes to consider this honestly and realistically.

Common themes mentioned in response to this discussion included :

- being intergenerational, more family based with all members of the family feeling that they are welcomed within a church,
- wanting to reach out to all within the community including to those recently moved into village communities in new-build homes,
- bridging the gap between those in the church and the local community,
- having services or activities that included all ages within the community,
- providing a relaxed, safe space for people,
- wanting the church to provide a hub for village life drawing people in with little or no faith.

JD mentioned his desire for the Minster Community to have a 'common feeling' when people come to visit so that churches miles apart all feel similar for the outsider. Places where God's presence can be sensed.

**ACTION:** *Church descriptors and the vision for the next 2 years to be discussed by PCC meetings, and subject to on-going discussion, so as not to lose sight of the vision.*

JD recognised that many churches have the same aims and there is opportunity to work together sharing these common themes. He advised that the aim is to have working parties coming together, perhaps bringing those in specific roles together in a similar manner to the Treasurers meeting in January, and announced intended working parties in 2024 to discuss Growing Faith, Festival Church, Churchwardens, and for Treasurers to meet again later this year. An Eco working group was suggested from the floor and JL mentioned the website [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk) where it is possible for individuals and Parishes to sign up to begin looking at Eco Church issues.

**ACTION:** *JD and JL to finalise dates for Working Parties and circulate invitations to Parishes.*

#### **5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS WITHIN THE DEANERY MINSTER COMMUNITY**

JL gave details of a list of Lent courses which WL has put together on behalf of JL and JD which will be finalised and circulated. There are several services on Palm Sunday as well as a walk being organised by David Palmer from East Norton to Launde Abbey via Loddington with short reflective stops at each of those points on the route.



JD announced that a series of monthly mini pilgrimages “Ancient Paths Fresh Trails” are being organised from March (the Palm Sunday being the first) to the end of summer. Details to be circulated shortly.

**ACTION: JD and DP to finalise details of mini-pilgrimages, WL to circulate list around Parishes.**

## 6. INTERNATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Mary Twidell and Hilary Painter spoke of the need to look beyond the boundaries of our Deanery Minster Community and to look at ways in which we could support our Sister Link Diocese in Tanzania. This may be through support training of ministers, but details are currently being considered by Leicester Diocese. A proposal will be brought to a future Deanery Synod. A donation of £70 per parish could be suggested, perhaps raised by events such as a coffee morning.

**ACTION: MT and HP to bring details to next Synod of how Launde Deanery Minster Community can support the Link Diocese.**

It was noted that the Women’s Day of Prayer is on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March with a service being held at Billesdon church at 10:30 followed by soup at Gaulby Church. It was noted that this year the service will be very poignant, the materials having been written by the Christian women of Palestine.

## 13. NEXT MEETING

- Launde Deanery Standing Committee with Launde Minster Community Co-ordinating Group – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 at 8pm on Zoom
- Deanery Synod – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 8pm (Tur Langton?)

**The meeting ended with prayer at 21:00.**