



LAUNDE DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of Launde Deanery Synod Meeting – Thursday 10th October 2024 Tilton-on-the-Hill Village Hall 19:30

1. PRESENT:

Revd Canon J Dowman (Co-Chair) - JD
Phil Leech (Diocese)
Revd Philip Norwood
Richard Windle (Keyham)
Gill Pawley (Tugby)
Edward Davis (Lovesby)
Patricia Bates (Cold Overton)
Richard Morris (Shangton)
William Naylor (Tur Langton)
Cynthia McLauchlan (Hungarton)
Deb Thomas (Knossington)
John Dyson (East Norton)
Sarah Hazelton (Hallaton)
Valerie Chouler (Skeffington)
Anne Aldridge (Cranoe)
Rachel and John Crisp (Loddington)
Wendy Lewis (Deanery Secretary) - WL

Revd Jayne Lewis (Co-Area Dean) - JL
Revd David Palmer (Pioneer Priest)
Dr Mike Hammond (Ordinand)
Brian Kearvell-White (Glooston)
Janet Doughty (Tugby)
Marjorie Carr (Lovesby)
KA Letts (Tilton on the Hill)
Mary Weston (Shangton)
Clare Staveley (Tur Langton)
Liz Sanders (Knossington)
Sue Sills (Knossington)
Carol Johnson (East Norton)
Julia Whittome (Hallaton)
Barbara Preston (Skeffington)
Simon Hammond (Owston)
Keith Evans (Billesdon)

Apologies:

Revd Stephen Bishop (Six Saints circa Holt)
Hugh Henderson (Keyham)
Sandra Leason (Tilton on the Hill)
Hilary Painter (Gaulby)

Mary and John Twidell (Horninghold)
Sandra Griffiths (Horninghold)
Patrick and Andrea Beddows (East Norton)
Wendy Rhodes (Welham)

2. OPENING WORSHIP: EVENING PRAYER

MW opened the meeting. Edward Davis informed those present of the death of Jim Auterson, the husband of Liz Auterson. Jim had been very involved in the church and village at Tilton on the Hill, please pray for Liz and her family. MW introduced Phil Leach, Archdeacons Co-ordinator for Parish Engagement from Leicester Diocese to the meeting. Wendy Lewis then led the meeting in an act of worship.

3. MINSTER COMMUNITY NEWS

JL began by giving an informal announcement about her retirement, she wants to give more time to her family. There is a requirement to give three months formal notice, Jayne's current feeling is that she will retire by summer 2025. She is giving informal early notice of her retirement to give the opportunity for the MC to discern the best way forward.

JD thanked JL for her ministry to Launde Deanery Minster Community and prayed for Jayne and her husband Alan, and then gave a presentation about our next steps as a Minster Community, noting 3 facts:



- Jayne will retire by the summer of 2025.
- The Diocese has confirmed that clergy leaving or retiring will *not* be replaced, unless parishes can pay for their stipend in full (the Minster Community currently pays for 1 priest in full.)
- Our Minster community has been given a time of grace by the Diocese and by Jayne to help us prepare for how we support our mission, ministry and pastoral care beyond the summer 2025.

JD then talked about how much our shared local ministry costs compared to how much we as the Deanery contribute. He advised that the existing Parish contribution (currently £80,618) provides 1 stipendiary post, one administrator, 5-6 PTOs, one SSM (with one in training) and lay leaders. JD went on to lead a discussion encouraging all present to imagine that the Diocese returned the collective Parish Contribution for the Minster Community and gave the responsibility of working out how we provide ministry across the Minster community from this starting point. He asked what could be expected of the stipendiary minister, the other ministers within the Deanery and the PCCs, and what might be the strengths and weaknesses of a suggested example model of ministry within the Deanery.

JD pointed out that traditional parish priest ministry would not be possible by the one stipendiary minister and laid out the reasons for that. He advised us, however, to be attentive to the positive ministry that is currently happening within the Deanery: especially the two Deanery services at the end of September which were attended by over 100 people including a couple of families he had contact with through the Growing Faith work he is undertaking in schools, and the Zoom congregation which meets every Sunday in the Deanery.

JD then asked those present to consider a series of questions which formed the basis of discussion:

- If you had one question for Deanery Synod what would it be?
- One opportunity?
- One concern?
- One hope.

The Synod then broke into small groups for discussion.

At the end of the discussion JD, MW and PL asked groups to feedback their responses, both in writing and verbally to the meeting.

JD ended up ended this part of the meeting by advising that he was encouraged and not surprised by the views shared. Questions from the floor related to the time of the Zoom service and why this is set at 11am, a time when the majority of churches want to have their services. MW summed up saying that the discussion had started a good communication and asked PCCs to consider how they can work with their neighbouring parishes. It was noted that no decisions were to be made at Deanery Synod but that this was to be an ongoing discussion within Parishes over the next few months.

JD summed up this part of the meeting by asking those present to share the information given at the meeting with their churches and PCCs so that in the New Year all are ready to say let's make this work!

ACTION: *JD asked those present to share the discussion with their churches and their PCCs so that in the New Year all will be ready to move the Minster Community forward.*



4.1 MINUTES OF DEANERY SYNOD 20TH JUNE 2024

The minutes were taken as read and approved.

Proposer – Janet Doughty, seconded by Simon Hammond.

4.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

MW read out the action points from the minutes of Deanery Synod on 20th June 2024. It was suggested that a written report about International Reflections be requested for future meetings. MW asked JD for an update of the progress of the **Launde Zoom Community Bishops' Mission Order** – JD advised this has been requested and that Bishop Martyn is happy to go ahead with this, however there will be certain requirements that will need to be met.

4.3 ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

None had been received.

5. NEWS FROM LEICESTER DIOCESE

MW advised that the Diocese had recognised that the Diocesan Board of Finance did not have full control over the financial implications of decisions being made by the Strategic Leadership team and the way that money is spent in the Diocese. Governance has been changed so that the Finance Director is now part of the governance team so that all corporate responsibilities now sit under one roof. Any questions about this to be addressed to MW.

6. OTHER DEANERY REPORTS AND PUBLISHED REPORTS

Safeguarding – JD & JL have updated their training. JL has been liaising with the Diocese safeguarding team to check on the relevant minimum safeguarding requirements for churches within the Deanery. JL is working alongside several PSOs who have extensive experience through their work with schools and is hoping that they will be able to act as support for parishes if they are struggling. JL is liaising with the Diocese to provide Basic Awareness training within the Deanery in January and WL will be sending round requests to confirm who needs safeguarding training and the most suitable date for the Diocese to come and provide it. All PCC members, as trustees of a charity, should have Basic Awareness and Foundation level training, either completed on-line or in person.

ACTION: *DMC Parishes to identify which PCC members require safeguarding training (this needs updating every three years*) and to respond to emails offering support to enable them to achieve this.*

Growing Faith – JD provided a written report giving news of his Growing Faith work with schools. JD gave details of the Confirmation that had taken place in Hallaton at their September Teatime service, where an informal Confirmation/ Communion had been held lasting less than 45 mins. JD advised that he is helping school classes to lead services in their local church. He mentioned that this is a fragile work but is starting to bear fruit with at least one school family coming to the recent Deanery Harvest service at Stonton Wyville.

JD also requested that parishes take photos of what is happening in their churches and share it. Also to send to John Dyson for the website. This is important to help those within the Deanery to encourage each other to feel upbeat and hopeful for the future.



ACTION: *DMC parishioners to continue to remember JD in prayer as he attends and works schools in his Growing Faith work. Parishes to take photos of the good that is happening in their churches and to send to John Dyson for the Deanery website.*

7. EVENTS WITHIN THE DEANERY MINSTER COMMUNITY

JD reminded Treasurers that there will be a Treasurers meeting 17/10 to discuss the subject of church finances. This will be held at the Old School in Billesdon.

8. INTERNATIONAL REFLECTIONS

HP and MT were unable to attend the meeting to present this item, and it was suggested that a written report be requested for the next meeting.

9. CLOSING PRAYER

JL closed the meeting with prayer at 21:05.

10. NEXT MEETING

- Launde Deanery Standing Committee with Launde MC Co-ordinating Group – Monday 23rd September 2024 at 8pm on Zoom.
- Deanery Synod – Thursday 27th February 2025 7:15 for 7:30pm (Tur Langton Village Hall)

*Post-meeting note added.