## Minutes of Easingwold Deanery Synod Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 Tollerton Church

<u>Present</u> – Revd Liz Hassall (Area Dean), Margaret Price (Lay Dean), Jane Johnson (treasurer & Deanery Financial Adviser), Revd Charlotte Cranfield, Revd Trevor Gant, Revd Stephen Pope, Revd Dot Hicks, Arthur Harland, Paula Ritchie, Liz Crawshaw, Andrew Evans, Malcolm French, Richard Mapletoft, Kathy Peacock, Carolyn Fletcher, Janet Mountain, Jane Pearce, Michael Turvey, Sian Merritt (secretary),

<u>Apologies</u> – Revd Margaret Young, Revd Steve Whiting, Revd Martin Harrison, Revd Rob Suekarran, Revd Malcolm Wainwright, Janet Irish, Alizon Leese, Michael Wansborough, David Mitchellinnes, Alan Hake.

Opening worship\_was led by Revd Liz Hassall who also welcomed and congratulated Revd Dot Hickes, long time Reader at Strensall and recently ordained as Deacon.

- 1. Approval of Minutes 25 Sept 2018 signed as a correct record
- 2. Matters Arising from minutes none.
- 3. <u>Citizen's Advice speaker, Nigel Lewen.</u> The Citizen's Advice Bureaux began at the start of WW2. They provide advice to help people deal with the problems they face. As a consequence of seeing those problems and collecting data they are able to lobby to change policies and practices that are not working. The advice given is free, confidential and impartial.

The National CA organisation provides training, IT and specialist support, quality control and audit and lobbies government.

Local organisations each run as an independent charity, responsible for their own funding (mostly from local councils) and recruitment. There are 316 in the country working in 3,300 different locations. Local to us is the Mid Yorkshire branch with outreach in Easingwold. There is a separate branch in York City. They provide face to face meetings (over 50% of their consultations), via telephone, email, webchat and online info via the website. Topics include debt and welfare benefits (the main ones), housing, employment, consumer concerns, family matters, health, education and discrimination.

They differ from other advice organisations by the breadth of topics covered, availability of face to face meetings and their holistic approach (ie they can look beyond the immediate problem to pre-empt other issues arising).

Volunteers have full training provided, expenses paid and usually give 1-2 days per week.

During questions Nigel explained that it is not practical for various reasons to offer "pop up" sessions at any of our church/community café meetings but that he is available to come and talk at those. The most helpful thing we can do as churches is to make folk aware of CA - where the nearest branch is, what the national helpline number is etc. Nigel will arrange to send info leaflets to Liz for our churches.

- 4. <u>Financial Report</u>. (sent with agenda) Synod unanimously agreed the proposed budget. Thanks to Jane for her work and a reminder that she is also the Deanery Financial Adviser and available for any queries she will be contacting all the PCC treasurers in due course.
- 5. <u>Lent Course, Bishop John</u>. Wednesday evenings in Lent, starting on 13<sup>th</sup> March, at Easingwold Methodist Church . Probably 7pm but watch the Deanery News for clarification. It will be based on the Beatitudes, Matthew Ch 5. Please ensure your congregations know about it.
- 6. <u>Diocesan Synod report.</u> (sent with agenda) The diocese is getting national funding for the project to reach those in their 20's 40's, which in turn we could apply for if we have ideas for something within our deanery the leadership team will discuss this but any ideas are welcome. Liz encouraged us to tell our PCC's about Diocesan synod and circulate the report to them.

There is a vacancy for a lay member on Diocesan synod (current lay members are Malcom French and Paula Ritchie and for the clergy, Liz Hassall and Lottie Cranfield). Contact any of them for more info.

- 7. <u>Coordinator Report.</u> This is sent with these minutes. The new website is now launched, thanks to much work by Carol and Margaret Price. (<u>www.easingwolddeanery.org.uk</u>) Liz requests that we look at it and use it and tell PCC's and congregations about it. Please report to Carol any errors you spot. Also send her photos of your churches and let her know of any links to social media sites for your churches.
- 8. <u>"Setting God's People Free" report.</u> (sent with agenda) This has come down from General Synod via the diocese and will go from us to our PCC's, with a report requested back from deanery to diocese in October. We were introduced to the ideas today and more detailed work will happen at the June deanery synod meeting.

We heard from Margaret Price, Liz Crawshaw and Richard Mapletoft of what they do in their everyday lives, Monday to Saturday as well as Sunday, to live out the Good News of Jesus. We then spent a short time in small groups considering what we each do in our communities as "sent church".

The range of things included: taking time to talk to folk you meet out and about in your village/at work, being aware of new people and making them welcome, visiting those who are unwell or need errands doing, running Home Group, using food as hospitality/providing opportunity to talk, taking in homeless young people for "Night stop", running a prayer group, joining activities in the village to meet no-church goers and being open to listening, through work as a teacher and a solicitor, through Riding Lights Theatre.

9. Interest Group reports. Margaret Price reported on the visit the "Environment" group organised to Allerton Park Waste Recovery Plant which was fascinating and encouraging; with 96% of our black bin waste being usefully used, including to generate electricity. Another visit is planned and the group is also planning a recycling project for crisp packets and biscuit/sweet wrappers which we can all get involved in. There will be more churchyard visits in the summer. Watch the Deanery News for info on all this.

Liz Hassall reported that the "Discipleship" group is planning a morning of taster sessions of available discipleship courses including: Start, Moving On, Alpha, Talking Jesus, so we can see what is out there and what would work best in our parishes/benefices. Probably May 11<sup>th</sup> - watch Deanery News for more info.

A final reminder from Liz to please share all the information/dates/events from today's meeting with your PCC's and congregations.

Margaret P will do an abridged version of these minutes which will be sent to PCC secretaries.

10. Future synod dates (6.45 for 7pm).

Tues 11 June 2019 – Stillington Church Mon 7 Oct 2019 – Easingwold Church Mon 13 Jan 2020 – venue tbc

Tollerton were thanked for their hospitality.

The meeting closed with the Grace.