

1. **Welcome** by David Nixon, Area Dean, who chaired the meeting.
2. **Act of Worship** led by Rev Louise Grace with Bible reading Mark 6:30-44
3. **Main Focus: *An overview of Deanery and Diocese:*** The Right Revd Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton

Bishop Jackie began with the news she had received that day that the Strategic Development Bid for St Matthew's had been successful so that it would be a Resource church in Exeter. She then reflected on the Bible passage with comments on the local context at diocesan, deanery and parish level under 5 headings.

1. *Edge and Centre* In a large geographical area as Exeter diocese she hears the comment 'it all happens in Exeter'. She encouraged us to think about what happens at the edge and at the centre, to hold strategic change – overview, vision, mission action plans; alongside emergent change – what bubbles up, perhaps at the edge.
2. *Sending and Gathering* in Mark 6:7 Jesus sent out the 12 disciples while in 6:30 they gathered back and 'told him all that they had done and taught'. The importance of telling and sharing stories across the diocese and deanery with a breadth of diversity. She commented on the church planting that is happening in Plymouth and in Exeter with different models or styles. She asked the question 'what does it mean for all parishes with different theological traditions, urban and rural, for church planting?'
3. *Coming and Going* Mark 6:31 Jesus calls his disciples to come away for a rest. If we are to 'serve the people of Devon with joy' and not with exhaustion – the importance of space and time for God. Coming and going is an ancient Hebrew idiom/blessing see Psalm 121:8.
4. *Sheep and shepherds* Mark 6:34 Jesus had compassion for the crowd and he first teaches them before any practical needs are met. Bishop Jackie challenged us to remember that people today still have huge spiritual needs but how can we meet them? She also said that there is 'no mission without compassion'.
5. *Taking and Blessing* In the section from v 37-43 she noted that there is a lot of counting and that finding out and noting or counting what is important is part of mission. She also reminded us to think of our local contexts and whom we can partner with – who may have a few small loaves and fish.

In the discussion that followed the importance of sharing stories – over meals, in sermons – was emphasised. These should include successes and disappointments/failures/struggles. Network church encourages people to tell their 'God stories' and that it is good to listen and encourage people to share in Church first and then be able to share such stories in daily life. There was general consensus that we make room for more discussion about stories at a future Synod meeting and the synod standing committee will plan appropriately. **ACTION: STANDING COMMITTEE**

4. Apologies? 12 lay members, 10 clergy. (Attendance at least 28 lay members, 16 clergy, one guest)

5. Minutes of Meeting 20th February 2019 These were approved with the one amendment to replace the name Ann Noakes with Lesley Noakes.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting 20th February 2019. None

7. News from the Parishes Susan Illiingworth advertised a talk by Andrew Johnson about stained glass on Saturday 13 July in St Michael's church, Heavitree. She also mentioned that Fr Robin Eastoe had just marked 40 years as a priest and a celebration eucharist is on Saturday 29 June. Sheila Swarbrick reminded people that St Petrock's church now hosts displays by different organisations and that the YMCA will be in July. She also noted the annual St Stephen's lunchtime concerts on the 4 Thursdays in July.

Post meeting note – Celebrate Together is a monthly service which includes especially people with learning difficulties/brain injuries. Some come independently while others with carers or family. New people are welcome. The next services are 1st September 4.30pm at Alphington parish church, 6 October 4pm at St Thomas, Baptist and 3 November 4pm at St Leonard's. More information from Sheila Swarbrick.

8. General Synod Report Anne Foreman spoke briefly about the 5-9 July meeting. This is the full preview.

As usual the Agenda for York is a full one and combines a fair amount of Legislative Business, Presentations, Debates, including that of Diocesan Synod Motions together with Workshops/Seminars on the progress of the Living in Love and Faith resources. Synod will also be asked to approve the Archbishops' Council expenditure budget for 2020.

Archbishop Sentamu will give his last Presidential Address to the July Synod, and eagle-eyed Church Times readers will know that the Prime Minister has nominated Joelle Warren to chair the York Crown Nominations Commission. Joelle was a member of the Lay Leadership Task Group which presented *Setting Gods People Free* to General Synod in 2017. (She is also a business woman, Bishop's Adviser on Panels considering recommending candidates for ordination training, and Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire!)

Agenda Items include

1. Legislative business. Diocesan Boards of Education Measure - first consideration
 - a. Cathedrals Measure - first consideration
 - b. Legislative Reform (Patronage of Benefices) Order 2019 for approval
2. Life of the Church. Debate on Clergy well being
 - a. Debate on Southwark Diocesan Synod Motion on Refugee Professionals
 - b. Debate on a motion on Responding to Serious Youth Violence
 - c. Debate on Mission Shaped Church and Fresh Expressions 15 years on
 - d. Debate on Rochester Diocesan Synod Motion - Anna Chaplaincy
3. Presentations.
 - a. Triennium Funding Working Group (*outlining funding to be applied for*)
 - b. Archbishops' Council Annual Report
 - c. Safeguarding - including questions
 - d. Mission and Ministry in Covenant (Methodist/Church of England areas of future work)
 - e. Leadership of Women - Mrs. Sheran Harper the first non-British World President of the Mothers Union

Synod will be set within a framework of prayer, worship and Bible study and there will be the usual Eucharist on Sunday morning in York Minster.

Early 2020 will see the start of the election process for the next quinquennium, so please give some thought to who you might wish to represent the Diocese in 2020-25

9. Diocesan Synod Report to include 'Bishops in Mission 2020' Sheila Swarbrick reported as follows

- 1) Bishop Robert spoke about the new Companion of St Boniface and asked people to nominate anyone who has faithfully served in churches & communities by 6 September. Form is on diocesan website – Area Dean or Lay Chair need to approve a nomination.
- 2) Chloe Axford, diocesan communications officer is doing a Communication survey. She is recruiting 4 focus groups in July – clergy & churchwardens, families & young people, over 50 and parish magazine editors with the aim of 10 in each group. Then the survey will be in autumn & she'll visit some churches. Any comments on diocesan communications generally welcomed.
- 3) Diocesan Vision & Strategy 2019 – 2024 There are 4 working groups who reported briefly on their progress so far in thinking of ways to make new disciples within these groups a) children, young people and families, b) 15-17 year olds, c) people over the age of 55 and d) fringe.
- 4) Diocesan Common Fund review – after some discussion the changes were agreed and will include an allowance for larger churches, the removal about investment income or those non-attending or undergraduates and an annual cap on the maximum increase each year.
- 5) Factors determining the budget strategy were given prior to the budget in full in October.
- 6) Information about the proposed Strategic development fund bid for Torbay was given.

Bishops in Mission 2020 – the 3 bishops are planning to spend 3 days in each archdeaconry during the year with the support of a team from Lee Abbey and some ordinands. The Exeter Archdeaconry visit is 20, 21, 22 March 2020 where the Sunday is Lent 4/Mothering Sunday. Small groups are meeting to plan these visits but any ideas or suggestions for events or opportunities for this time please let Sheila Swarbrick or Carl Robinson know.

10. Secretary's Report David Smith explained that Yvonne Taylor has been signed off work and hence sends her apologies. He welcomed one returning lay member and two new lay members to synod.

11. Treasurer's Report No treasurer and nothing to report.

12. Area Dean's Report David Nixon commented briefly on the following

- 1) reminder of Bishops in Mission 20, 21, 22 March 2020 for Exeter Archdeaconry.
- 2) Revd Ed Hodges service of institution and induction at St Matthew's church is on Monday 22nd July at 7pm.
- 3) The diocese is pursuing applying for national money for developments in Torbay and David wants to explore making another bid for funds for a different sort of church development in Exeter.
- 4) The deanery will be welcoming 3 curates in September to St James, St Thomas and the Cathedral.
- 5) He expressed his thanks to Sheila Swarbrick for deputising for him at various recent area dean meetings.

13. Lay Chair's Report David Smith spoke about

- 1) the annual deanery walk on Saturday 14th September which this year will be morning only because of the ordinations in the afternoon. It begins at 8am at Alphington church, 10am at the Cathedral and concludes by 1pm at Countess Wear.
- 2) Reminder about Bridge Books and their stock particularly for children and young people moving school, going to college.
- 3) Good study material e.g. Frontline is available on the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity website.

14. Any Other Business

Carl Robinson advertised the launch of an Exeter based Mission Shed on Monday 15th July at 7pm at St Mark's Church, Pinhoe Road. The plan is to have a meeting each school term where clergy and lay people meet to exchange ideas in a context of prayer and worship. On 15th July the theme is 'telling your story'. Next Mission Sheds are fixed for Monday 14th October and Monday 9th March. More information from Carl Robinson or Tanya Hockley-Still.

15. Closing Prayer David Smith closed the meeting with prayer at 9pm.

Diary Dates 2019

Deanery Synod:

- Tuesday 22nd October at St James, 7pm for 7.30pm

Pastoral & Standing Committee: All 7.45 pm

- Tuesday 16th July
- Thursday 26th September