

NORTH WEST LEEDS DEANERY SYNOD MEETING 22 FEBRUARY 2023

held at St Matts Leeds

NOTES

Joanna Seabourne, the Area Dean led the evening where there were between 50 - 60 present, both lay and clergy. Jill and Norman represented OPC.

Since this was the first meeting of the Deanery since the new arrangements were put in place two key people were interviewed by Joanna.

Rev Dave Young who is team vicar at St Barnabas Alwoodley and also the new Assistant Area Dean shared some of his story. He came to Leeds as a student in 1999 and became involved with St George's Crypt as well as St George's Church. He is now team vicar at St Barnabas Church Alwoodley.

Over the last eighteen months his church had become increasingly seeking to help and support the significant numbers of refugees from Hong Kong who were settling in Leeds. It is understood that HK refugees will represent the largest influx of refugees to the UK since the Windrush generation. Dave's father who is from HK came to the UK in the 1970s and Dave has a particular connection with these new refugees. He is shortly to go on sabbatical and the focus of his study and research will be around this issue including a trip to HK.

Asked why he had been willing to serve as assistant area dean, he said he wanted to do something new and was passionate about the roll of parish churches.

Roger Lazenby is the lay chair of the new deanery, having previously served in this capacity with our previous deanery. He had been in Leeds for 35 years having move across the border from Lancashire! He attends St Paul's Ireland Wood which is involved in a lot of good community outreach. His reason for continuing in the roll was his commitment to networking. He also serves on the Diocesan Synod and seeks to work within the C of E structures as a committed Anglican.

Joanna Seabourne then set out her vision and the possibilities of the deanery. It is good to hear, share, learn, dream dreams and encourage each other. It does us well to remember that many individuals work outside their parishes, commuting to work. There is the temptation to be so engrossed in the business of our own communities, that we fail to have a wider framework. Her main working role is the Diocesan Director for Interns and the numbers were increasing. She also mentioned the many chaplaincies that exist in our deanery involved with schools, hospitals and universities.

Joanna also felt there should be increased prayer for each other, aware of the joys and sorrows in various parishes.

There then followed the election of the Standing Committee which was by show of hands. There is still the need for a Secretary.

During the evening those present had the opportunity of speaking to those nearby sharing where we were from and at least one encouragement from our own church setting. Those present were also asked to share any encouragement they had experienced through their association with the Deanery. One person remembered the initiative taken many years ago to get involved with 'Open the Book' when it was first launched nationally - I was able to say that I had been involved in a school assembly this morning. Some pieces of news and forthcoming events were made known.

In closing we had time of reflective prayer as we entered into Lent, thinking of our own churches and a church immediately near us.