

Aire and Worth Deanery Synod Report 2023-24

Our deanery representatives during the year were Rev John Rainer for the House of Clergy (until his retirement in September 2023) and Mike Moss, Viv Brealey and Zahida Mallard for the House of Laity. St Peter's currently has one vacancy for a deanery representative for the remaining 2 years of this Synod.

The Deanery Synod held three meetings during the year.

The first meeting was in June 2023 at St John's Baildon. This was attended by Rev Ned Lunn, Cathedral Canon for Intercultural Mission and the Arts, who is leading the church's response and involvement in the Bradford 2025 Capital of Culture event. He spoke to Synod about how churches can engage with Capital of Culture, by offering their premises for events and rehearsals, by offering volunteers to help with events during the year and by supporting any events put on by the church more widely – a possible proposal is a Mystery Cycle of plays setting everyday Christian faith and texts alongside those of other faiths eg reflecting on flood stories from the different faiths.

The October meeting took place at St Michael's Cottingley, and included the election of the Lay Chair and Secretary of the deanery. This was a particularly special occasion for our own Mike Moss, who was able to pass on the role of Lay Chair after many years of faithful service, to Mr Stuart Eteson (proposed by Miss Elizabeth Evans and seconded by Mr Mike Moss). Mrs Alison Haigh was elected unopposed as deanery secretary. The meeting also elected the Standing Committee, consisting of Mrs Helen Ludkin and Miss Elizabeth Evans as lay representatives and Rev Richard Burge and Rev Martyn Weaver as clergy representatives. The meeting also heard presentations from Elizabeth Anderson from the Memory Tree and from Brian, an Admiral Nurse Advocate, who both spoke about the impact of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia on individuals and their families. The Synod held some group discussions about how the church can better support those suffering from dementia and their families and carers.

The final meeting of the cycle was held in March at St Mark's, Utley. During the evening, Synod members heard about three different nurture courses and various church's experience of using them – the Start course, produced by Leading Your Church into Growth, which has been used at St Peter's for the Friday Chat sessions recently; the Moving On Course, also from LYCiG; and Being With, an enquirer's course developed by Revd Dr Sam Wells and Revd Sally Hitchener from St Martin in the Fields. All those who had used the courses recommended them and synod members discussed some of the content in small groups.

Viv Brealey, Deanery Synod Representative