Deanery Synod Report 2023-2024

The new 3 year term for North West Leeds Deanery Synod began in Spring 2023. Its first meeting in July 2023. This was the last meeting for Joanna Seabourne as Area Dean and the Deanery thanked her for her work over the last 5 years. Dave Ho Young was announced as the new Area Dean and Hannah Livesey as Assistant Area Dean.

The two subsequent Deanery Synod meetings in September 2023 and February 2024 have focused on developing a vision for North West Leeds Deanery Synod. The Vision is to enhance and empower what is happening at parish level and to increase co-operation and collaboration across the Deanery. The aim is that the Deanery will support and facilitate the mission and growth of every parish to enable an agenda that clearly focuses on growth that is spiritual, numerical, missional and financial. It is hoped to achieve this through:

- Supporting and enabling clergy and laity
- Sharing resources between parishes
- Giving parishes a voice.

At each meeting there has also been feedback from discussions at Diocesan Synod and General Synod covering topics such as Prayers of Love and Faith, the Barnabas Scheme, media developments regarding safeguarding, finance and link Dioceses. There has been considerable discussion about how to improve communication between Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod.

There have also been 3 Area Forums where all three Leeds Deanery Synods have met together. These have focused on environmental Issues, church growth and sharing together in Advent using Bishop Arun's book 'Stick with Love'.

Di Riley April 2024