

Deanery Synod Report for Armley Deanery 2019

A Joint Deanery Synod met at St George's Leeds on three occasions during the year, and we also had one Armley-only meeting. The joint meetings allow reps to hear a presentation on a major theme each evening, to gain a wider perspective of the situation across Leeds, to hear input from Bishop Paul and Archdeacon Paul on recent developments, and to have time in our own deaneries.

In March, Revd Joanna Seabourne gave a presentation on Resource Churches. Canon Alastair Kaye spoke about an exciting new initiative in Holbeck enabled by national mission funding, and involving extending the church, the appointment of a new pioneer minister, and partnership with neighbouring parishes of different traditions. We also heard about the support given by St George's in resourcing the work at Ireland Wood, and Wrangthorn, which has enabled them both to grow.

In June the main subject was WYDAN, and Katrina Burton (manager of West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network) gave an excellent presentation on the reasons why WYDAN came into being, and how the winter night shelters are organised. Five churches in Armley deanery have been involved in hosting the project, and reps spoke of their experiences in the deanery session.

In October the whole evening was spent on the new Diocesan Strategy, the newly published 'Toolkit' materials were discussed, and reps were encouraged to mix with those from other parishes in an interactive discussion about how this new resource might be used.

There was also an Armley-only meeting in February held at St Wilfrid's Calverley, on Discipleship, led by Phil Arnold which was very well-attended. Many thanks to those who cooked and served a delicious hot meal for attendees, which was very much appreciated!

Our thanks go to the Revd Canon Arani Sen for his leadership of Armley Deanery until October when he left Armley for a new appointment in London, Revd Lindsey Pearson (acting Area Dean, who became Area Dean in January 2020), David Jorysz our lay chair, and Jo Sarker for her administrative work on our behalf.

Revd Sue McWhinney (Armley Deanery Secretary).