Deanery Synod Report for Armley Deanery 2020

The plan at the start of 2020 was to have two Armley deanery only meetings (in January and July), and two Joint Leeds Deanery Synod meetings at St George's Leeds in March and October.

In January Armley Synod met at Ven Bede, Wyther, to discuss the new diocesan strategy, how we could use it as a resource, and how it might work alongside what we are already doing in our parishes. The evening was presented by Revd Sharon Wilkinson, and her questions stimulated a helpful discussion and greater understanding of the issues.

The Joint Synod in March had a focus on lay training, with a presentation by Revd Angela Hannafin on the range of courses now available. See https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/ A number of participants shared their experience of using the Discovery course, and synod members discussed in groups what training they had appreciated in the past, and would value for the future.

The planned Armley deanery meeting for July was cancelled because of the pandemic situation.

The subject in October (a Joint Synod on Zoom) was health and wellbeing, with an interesting perspective from Revd Dr Gillian Straine (Guild of St Raphael) on what the healing ministry is, that it is about having a full, right relationship with God, not just physical healing, and she explained that it can involve sacramental ministry, pastoral care, and dying well. The meeting also heard from Revd Canon Ben Rhodes, head of chaplaincy, Leeds teaching hospitals, about the role of chaplains and the impact of COVID in Leeds.

We are thankful for the work of Revd Lindsey Pearson (Area Dean), David Jorysz (Armley Deanery Lay Chair), and Jo Sarker for her administrative work on our behalf.

Revd Sue McWhinney (Armley Deanery Secretary).