

# PART OF SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER

## THE REVD MAGGIE JEAVONS STEPS DOWN AS AREA DEAN OF EAST HULL

Six years ago I was commissioned by Bishop Richard, then Bishop of Hull, as Area Dean for East Hull. During the past six years I have seen a number of changes, not least in Bishop and Archdeacon, and also Rural, latterly Area Deans.

My first task almost was to work with Archdeacon David Butterfield on 'Church Inspections', checking that everything was where it should be! Often it wasn't,



and that did bring frustration; but the joy was that it gave me the opportunity to meet with and begin to get to know the churchwardens in the parishes of East Hull.

One of the things I have valued most is appreciating the wider perspective: the monthly meetings of Area Deans in the East Riding with the Bishop and Archdeacon have, amongst other things, reminded me that we are part of something much bigger than our own particular parish or Deanery – and that is important, especially in an area like East Hull where we very often are up against it.

I think it's because of this – being 'up against it' that I have always found East Hull clergy very supportive of each other (though inevitably, as in any walk of life, there are those who wish to go it alone!). It has been a privilege to be part of the Chapter, and for the last six years to be Area (Associate) Dean.

I am excited by the developments which are happening, especially that concerning the role of the Deanery, to be a fellowship of churches engaged in mission and making disciples. That is, after all, what our Lord sent out his first disciples to do – to proclaim the good news and make disciples. It is my prayer, and will continue to be, that the Deaneries (and that means all church members, not just clergy) will indeed do just this!

JANUARY 2019

## EXCITED AND EXPECTANT; SOUTHERN RYEDALE DEANERY GATHERING

The shift of emphasis in the function of the deaneries to a focus on mission and nurture - the idea of being 'a network of churches inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry' inspired us to change from 'Synod' to 'Gathering', and the laity and clergy all together working out three priorities.

As a result there are working groups in each of those areas: developing children and youth work, growth through discipleship workshops and also 'LYCiG local' around the deanery. We set and have just reviewed objectives in each priority for a year, and are now looking at how to

bring these three things together under one umbrella, to run alongside one another as expressions of church growth and nurture. This has been greatly nourished and inspired by those who have attended LYCiG training.

The Gatherings have become places to pray, worship and study together as well as discuss the synodical business issues.



People are engaging enthusiastically with bible enquiry and exploring concepts like Christlikeness.

There has been a shift towards equipping and enabling people and there is talk of 'a breath of fresh air blowing through the deanery'. People are becoming excited... and expectant.

**Jo Bowden**

- Southern Ryedale Deanery Gathering

# EMBRACING SOCIAL MEDIA

In Whitby Deanery we are very keen to emphasise the benefits of working together to be able to offer diversity of worship across the deanery.

To do this we have produced a glossy brochure "what is a deanery" which has been distributed through the parishes, and the Lay Dean tries to visit a different church each week. These visits have been much appreciated.

Whitby Deanery covers a large geographical area with 26 parish churches grouped into six benefices serviced by six incumbents (one of whom is part time) and one a part-time locum. All are relatively recent appointees. Within the Deanery there are also several active retired clergy and the Order of the Holy Paraclete's St Hilda's Priory. The Deanery consists of Whitby itself (population 13,000) and several scattered villages, and rates high on the government's index of deprivation. Many of the villages have an elderly population which is reflected in the congregations, and some of the churches have attendances in single figures.

Owing to the geographical spread of the deanery we have trouble with publicity and for this reason we have embraced social media. We have set up a

Facebook page (Whitby Deanery) which has two administrators and two editors. This page publicises events and records them (normally in pictures) across the deanery. Our post of the Blessing of the Lifeboats by Bishop Paul received over 450 hits and more than 50 engagements. We also share posts from the local secondary schools, from Durham, Ripon and York Cathedrals and from York Diocese. Posts are also shared from other local organisations and churches not in our deanery at the discretion of the editors. Many of the latter resist liking our page; work to be done there! As Lay Dean I cannot over emphasise the importance of social media and would appreciate the Diocese putting on courses on social media as I am not of an age in which I was brought up on this!

As a last plea please visit our page and Like it; just go to Facebook and search for Whitby Deanery.

**Leslie Dobson - Lay Dean Whitby Deanery**



# SCARBOROUGH DEANERY HEALING SERVICE

**Over a hundred people turned up to a Healing Service we held in Hunmanby during Archbishop Sentamu's Scarborough Deanery Mission in October 2017 - a number that took us a little by surprise.**

This was such a positive event that we wanted to embrace the opportunity and continue to reach out into the community in this way.

The clergy in the Southern part of the Deanery (Filey, Hunmanby, Seamer, Eastfield) meet together regularly to support and pray for one another, and after the Archbishop's Mission we decided to try a series of joint healing services on the evening of the 5th Sundays in Spring, Summer and Autumn during 2018.

Starting in Hunmanby the service has rotated around the parishes, going on to Filey, Seamer and in March 2019 on to Eastfield. The local parish 'hosts' the service in a style most akin to that church, so that the nuance of the service is not always the same. Each time we ask someone to give their testimony and we have heard of some wonderful things that God has been doing in people's lives including some amazing healing. A vis-

iting speaker is invited, so far including Jonathon Couper, Francis Wainaina, and John Coles. Members of the churches' 'healing teams' play an important part, meeting before the service to pray and then working together in praying for those coming forward. At each service there has been between 75 and 90 people attending, many of whom are on the edges of church life, invited to come along by our regular members.

This is a collaborative 'Outreach Ministry' in the Deanery of both clergy and laity, and the positive outcome has been a growing sense of ministry together, seeing people healed and sharing in the joy of what God is doing in the area.

**Nigel Chapman - Vicar of Filey**

