

A REAL HEART-LIFTING DAY

Scarborough Deanery Conference: Reaching Children and Young People

“Today was an answer to a prayer I didn’t realise I was making, so thank you for providing this opportunity.”

This was just one person’s feedback when Scarborough Deanery gathered to share the resources we have available across the diocese, and learn what is already happening across the deanery in nurturing our children and young people. It was an exciting day with lots of conversation, learning, fellowship and worship.

After energising opening worship lead by the Area and Lay Deans, we heard excellent presentations from Carolyn Edwards and Olivia Seymour on the exciting diocesan strategy for Church, Schools and Families and how we can build the like between the three. It was an interactive session creating much conversation on how we could work together.

Five short presentations followed from the initiatives happening in Scarborough, again to share ideas to encourage churches to think about what they can do in children’s ministry: The



Bus Stop, Godly Play, Sidewalk, Faith in Scarborough Schools and Open the Book performed by Holy Nativity

Church.

A variety of ten well-received practical afternoon workshops covered all age groups and left people excited about going back to their Parishes and wanting to develop ideas learnt: Early Years, Telling Stories, Godly Play, Schools and Festivals,

Gen Z, The Bus Stop, Open the Book and Prayer Spaces in Schools.

Some more comments from the day:

- “I’ve had such an inspiring day... my head is buzzing with crazy ideas to strengthen and develop the youth and family ministry we offer.”
- “It was an excellent day. Encouraging, challenging, inspiring!”
- “It was a real heart lifting day full of encouragement”
- “Very relevant to contemporary culture, uplifting and very inspiring - I had many conversations with younger practitioners and it was all spot on.”

Ros Brewer - Lay Dean, Scarborough

JANUARY 2020

LAY DEANS GATHERED AT THE PALACE

Archbishop Sentamu welcomed 15 Lay Deans from across York Diocese to their Conference at Bishopthorpe Palace in October.

Lay Deans Ros Brewer (Scarborough) and Andrew Pate (South Holderness) led a discussion of the joys and frustrations of being a Lay Dean. Most thought it a great privilege to be able to

serve their deaneries and many of the frustrations raised were the usual ones of lack of finance, dwindling congregations and communication issues, including Lay Deans not receiving the same communications as Area Deans who then discuss deanery matters at Chapter.

Helen Lawrence of Wydale Hall led a session on Relationships, speaking of the ‘private self’ known only to me; the ‘blind self’ known only to others; the ‘public self’ known to all; and the ‘unknown self’, known only to God. Through this Helen helped us to reflect on relationships generally and especially in the deanery.



After an excellent lunch with the Archbishop, we were with Martin Sheppard and Lorna Heatley, of the diocesan Communications Team. Martin spoke of the value of keeping in mind “the concept of who needs to know what” when communicating.

Lorna explained that there were a plethora of social media platforms of which Facebook was the most used in the UK. She said that a post should consist of no more than about three sentences and said that they should be cheerful, brief, colourful, entertaining and inspiring, and illustrated by a picture.

The day closed with a Eucharist Service presided by Archbishop Sentamu with anointing of the Lay Deans. Thankfully the rain had stopped and the Archbishop’s Palace was still on dry land as the delegates headed for home!

Leslie Dobson Lay Dean, Whitby.

A GOD-GIVEN OPPORTUNITY

HOWARD PETCH URGES DEANERIES TO GRASP THIS MARCH'S 'COME AND SEE' MISSION

It was a real privilege to be a member of Bishop Alison's small team visiting Cumbria as part of the Northern Bishop's Diocesan Mission last year.

COME SEE

I recall feelings of apprehension and inadequacy especially during the preparatory period. The reality proved to be a few days of friendship and fellowship, meeting and engaging with new people, to talk through issues of faith and belief, and where appropriate to relate my own story of faltering steps in discipleship.

'Come and See' in March will be an opportunity for our diocese to be on the receiving end as we welcome visiting teams into our own communities. An opportunity to unite in mission and outreach, to share the Gospel. An opportunity to offer hospitality and with the help of our visiting Bishop's and their teams to engage with family, friends, neighbours and our communities that some may become disciples of Jesus. This opportunity should especially chime with those churches involved in 'Leading your Church into Growth'

For this to happen there will need to be much PRAYERFUL preparation---special times of prayer. There is a need

- To ensure our visiting teams feel really welcome giving thought to accommodation and hospitality
- For each deanery/benefice to plan a coherent range of events
- For most of the churches within the deanery to hold at least one event---sometimes this may be several small churches joining together. One event done well is better than overstretching
- Sometimes to use events that may happen anyway---we participated in formal discussions, walks, even a talent show ---many included food---usually a winner!
- To take note of each visiting team; their background skills and experience and how these can best be utilised
- To focus on PRAYER before during and after
- To focus also on INVITATION and in particular personal invitation - great events with few people can be discouraging



This is a God given opportunity!

comeandsee.uk

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR DEANERIES?

Our renewed vision of deaneries, agreed in 2017, is that they are "a local network of churches, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry". Here's some examples of what's been happening around the diocese...

- *Easingwold are running the 'Talking Jesus Course' helping people to be more confident in sharing their faith*
- *Marriage Preparation is organised across the deanery of Beverley*
- *East Hull had a morning for RPAs to meet together for some teaching, partly from the Bishop*
- *Hymns, Beer and Pimms evening in Derwent - a great opportunity to sing favourite hymns with the added enjoyment of refreshing drinks*
- *A Quiz Night got church members*

- *and friends together in Howden Deanery*
- *An Easter Sunrise Service in Harthill saw people from across the deanery attend*
- *A Gin Tasting evening was a real tonic in South Wold*
- *Bridlington Deanery have held several prayer mornings visiting different parishes, especially around their Midweek Communion Services and including a prayer walk*
- *In Mowbray the 'Come and See'*

Mission preparations include resources for services/ events and deanery-wide training on invitation and telling our story.



Inspired by these ideas?

What could God do in your deanery?