

Deanery Synod Report: APCM May 2025

Representatives:

Linda Sykes and Helen Wren

Revd. Canon Richard Carew is a member of the Deanery Leadership Team and is an Associate Area Dean.

Personnel:

There have been a number of changes in 2024.

- Rev. Andrew Gready was appointed Area Dean and Revd. Canon Richard Carew and Rev. Canon Liz Hassall as Associate Area Deans of York.
- Following the retirement of Bill Nankevell as Treasurer, Adrian Fuller was appointed.
- Following the retirement of the Bishop of Selby, The Rt. Rev. John Thomson, The Rt Revd Dr Flora Winfield was appointed in the Autumn.
- The Deanery are now paying for admin support which is being provided by St Michael-le-Belfrey, with the cost being covered by churches based on their free will offer.

Living Christ's Story:

The principal topic this year has continued to be Living Christ's Story.

- Sam Nicol, Director for Strategic Transformation led a session on how this is communicated to churches and what the challenges are around the Deanery.
- Rt. Rev. John Thomson reflected on his experience over the years and said there are green shoots in the Church of England. Recent statistics indicated growth of 4% with 9% of this being children. He also observed that the rural churches are often now working together, initially out of necessity, but they are learning what is best to do together and what is best to do separately.
- Jan Grey, Generous Giving Adviser, looked at how living Christ's story can develop a culture of generous giving and help to develop a life of generosity. The fruits of this lifetime of generosity can be seen around the churches with communities being prayerful, hospitable, inclusive and compassionate. Churches were increasingly sharing skills and many had projects that encouraged caring for the planet and fighting for justice.
- Group discussions have focused on how we look outwards into our communities and what the challenges are in the different areas of the deanery. Three cluster groups were formed, one from the West side of York, one from the East side of York and one from York Centre, as it was considered that each area faced slightly different challenges. Central York is to consider how our heritage story and assets serve the call to Live Christ's Story. West York to consider how to reach the thousands of students and young people in the area. East York to consider how to engage and share with the growing suburban population of the new estates which are being built.
- Several people have shared their experiences of 'Living Christ's Story' such as the Mustard Seed project which is about growing disciples in places where life is tough. See <https://www.mseed.org> and the Connect Project which seeks to support children with learning needs to have access to worship.

Helen Wren & Linda Sykes