

SOUTHERN RYEDALE PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS REPORT 4

27 April 2022

The Planning Team met for the fourth time on April 27th in person at Barton le Street Village Hall and began by sharing a meal together (thank you, Daphne!). We were joined by Chris Wingfield as Area Dean and Veronica James in her capacity as reflector and critical friend.

After Chris led us in prayer, he gave us an update on the overall LCS process and Veronica reflected upon and led a short discussion on the need to recognise our 'land' and 'geography' as we think about the unique characteristics of the three areas of the deanery that we are worshipping and serving in.

Sue updated us on what had happened since the last Planning Team meeting in March. There had been much prayer and reflection on the ideas shared at the last meeting as to a potential route forward in each of our parishes and benefices in a way which works for them. When all the information was distilled there was enough to put together various ways in which we could give life to that without the need to go back to parishes and benefices with more questions, bearing in mind the need for us to have a one year, five year and ten year plan that is financially viable whilst being creative so as to facilitate growth. In the time leading up to this week's Planning Team meeting Nicky and Sue met with Archdeacon Sam in her temporary role as the Interim Director for Strategic Transformation for the Diocese and she gave us some fresh thoughts to consider. These were weaved in before Nicky and Sue met with the Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) on April 26th for an interim discussion on the ideas that might become part of the Deanery Plan. The DLT asked plenty of probing questions but were content that the various possible ideas should be presented to the Planning Team, which is what formed the bulk of our most recent meeting with lots of questions being asked as we explored together the different ideas.

The Planning Team have been asked to spend time considering, critiquing, reflecting on and praying about the various possible ways forward; already there have been thoughts and questions explored by email and the setting up of smaller group meetings to discuss further the different ideas. There are more conversations which need to happen and then the Planning Team will be in a

position to start testing the ideas in their parishes and benefices. The next Planning Team meeting is on May 16th at which there can be further revisions to what we have been discussing and then there will be the opportunity to present our draft proposals at a Deanery Gathering on May 18th in St Michael's Malton beginning at 7.30pm.

After that there will be more time for discussion, prayer and reflection as well as a meeting of the DLT and the Planning Team with Bishop John, Archdeacon John and Archdeacon Sam on May 31st at which our ideas will be discussed and challenged.

Over the summer Nicky and Sue plan to revisit parishes and benefices to make sure the input of everyone can be heard and at every stage our ideas can be further refined before our written Deanery Plan is submitted by the end of July. At this point all the Deanery Plans will be distilled alongside other aspects of a wider Diocesan review.

In what can seem a difficult time there are opportunities we are exploring and plenty of things which provide optimism for the way ahead. We listen for God's voice and ask for the guidance of his Holy Spirit in all we do so please do continue to hold all of us in your prayers as we work to give life to His plan for us in our parishes, benefices and Deanery.
