

## **SOUTHERN RYEDALE PLANNING TEAM PROGRESS REPORT 5**

**24 May 2022**

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The Planning Team has met twice in little over a week! At our meeting last week we talked through the proposals to be presented at the Gathering on May 18<sup>th</sup> and it was wonderful to see lots of you at that event. On that evening we were able to begin to understand the plan in groups and the process is now gathering momentum. Last night we met again, at St Michael's in Malton, to share the feedback we had garnered so far so as to better understand the unfolding of the process across the Deanery and we talked through our next steps as well as reflecting on the process so far.

As you may well be aware we are in the throes of creating a Deanery Plan that will work where we are for the next year, the next five years and the next 10 years. This is being done in the context of Living Christ's Story which challenges us to be simpler, humbler and bolder when thinking about our churches where we are with a focus on growth and financial sustainability.

After a lot of prayer, reflection and talking we have, with the support and endorsement of the DLT, devised a draft plan which is what we shared at the Gathering last week. When the minutes of that are sent out you will also receive the slides which provide a context and underlying philosophy for what we are doing, and a simple breakdown of the plan so that you can see that change is coming to all parts of the Deanery and how it may be realised where you are. Please do contact your Planning Team representative if you are not on the Deanery mailing and they can forward the materials to you.

The next step is that the DLT and the Planning Team meet with Bishop John and Archdeacons Sam and John on May 31<sup>st</sup> to present and discuss the draft plan as it stands. Please pray for that meeting and our collective discernment of the way forward. Running alongside that Nicky and I will be visiting each parish/benefice to talk through the current plan in detail, to answer questions you have and to take constructive feedback on the way forward from here. Your representative will have the date and venue for the meeting so please check with them when and where and then come along; Nicky and I would love to see you. We would also encourage you to have an open and ongoing dialogue with your Planning Team representative as they can feed information back and forth and help you in getting used to what we appreciate are some big ideas and potential changes. We are hearing lots of feedback, particularly around the amount to be expected of clergy, the growth of lay ministry, the involvement of the higher levels of the church and the viability of any new model;

please be assured that these strands, amongst others, will be clearly articulated in the Plan.

After the feedback we get from the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, Nicky and Sue's visits and the ongoing feedback we get the Planning Team will meet once more in early July so we can settle on a final version of the Deanery Plan. This will then have to be endorsed by the DLT and the Gathering on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The final plan will be submitted to the YDLT by the end of July; after that all the Deanery Plans will be considered by them, as part of a wider Diocesan review and we hope to get the green light early in the autumn. At that point we would start to work with parishes and benefices to put together parish packs where appointments are to be made and to get the next, and exciting, part of the process moving

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.

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