

## **Deanery Synod Report for the All Saints ACPM 2025**

### **Deanery**

During the year deanery synod met each quarter both in person at St Thomas Sutton in Craven and St Peter's Addingham and online. Each meeting begins with an opportunity to share items of good news within the deanery. Geoff Park, the Chief Finance Officer of the diocese made a presentation on Parish Share. He highlighted that for every £100 of Parish Share received the diocese spends £130 on clergy and their housing. The shortfall is met by selling property, using reserves and reducing operating costs. This is clearly not sustainable, giving will need to increase or ministry models will need to adapt. Hilary Davies gave a presentation to Deanery Synod about her visit to the West Bank with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel which is under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. It was disconcerting to hear at first hand of the challenges being faced on a day-to-day basis in the region.

### **Diocesan**

Diocesan Synod meets quarterly and was held on Zoom and in St Georges in Leeds and Holy Trinity Boar Lane in Leeds. The synod agreed not to invest in companies with significant revenues arising from fossil fuels. It reaffirmed the importance of the links with overseas dioceses, recognising the importance of sharing with and learning from our brothers and sisters from all over the world. Synod was regularly briefed on the work of the Barnabas project, which supports churches to move forward in mission, ministry and sustainability. Over 45% of parishes in the diocese have engaged with the work of Barnabas in some way. Presentations were provided by the leader of the Children, Young People and Families Team and the Head of safeguarding. The president of the Mothers Union gave an update on its activities. There were discussions about the parish share and the fact that it had still not recovered since Covid. This has triggered a change in approach whereby the Diocese will explore new ways of engaging with parishes including more face-to-face meetings. Bishop Nick kept synod informed about the major issues in General Synod including the LLF proposals and the debates around safeguarding. The Synod reaffirmed its commitment to Fairtrade. Details were provided to synod about a historic case of fraud in the Wakefield Diocese, the perpetrator has now been prosecuted, significant sums have been recovered and policies and procedures have been changed to take account of the lessons learned.

Hywel Rees-Jones