

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Deanery of South Craven and Wharfedale covers 13 churches that make up the 10 benefices as follows: St. Peter -- Addingham; St. John the Evangelist-- Ben Rhydding; St. Mary the Virgin-- Burley in Wharfedale; St. John the Evangelist-- Cononley with Bradley; St. Andrew --Kildwick; All Saints and St. Margaret --Ilkley; St. John the Divine --Menston with Woodhead; St. James -- Silsden; St. Thomas -- Sutton with Cowling and Lothersdale.

Father Philip is the Area Dean. The representation from St. Margaret's on the Synod is myself, Steve Betts, Richard Hilton, Judith Smith and Val Smith in her capacity as Diocesan Synod member.

There have been 2 meetings since our last APCM. The format of our meetings tends to focus on a main presentation followed by the usual business matters -- reports, correspondence, approval of minutes, future dates etc.

At each meeting we have an update on Otley Resources Hub, which St. Margaret s supports with an annual donation and which in turn supports our volunteers who take "Open the Book "into Ashlands and our Sunday School teachers. At the April meeting the update was by Lizzie Reynolds and Revd. Peter Wilcox.

The Deanery has also undertaken a Marriage Preparation Course which was attended at St. Margaret's by 7 couples and seemed highly successful. The Social Committee and Mothers' Union helped with refreshments. The couples were from all over the deanery.

At the Deanery Synod meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the presentation was by Mrs. Sharon Bavington who is the Bradford Episcopal Area Ministry and Lay Training Officer. She gave a talk entitled "Helping our churches flourish " which was very hopeful for the future.

At our meeting on 18th. February 2020, we welcomed Bishop Toby to give the presentation. Bishop Toby reflected on his 5 years as Bishop of Bradford and how much he enjoys and is challenged by it. He is on the Christian /Muslim forum and represents the Archbishop of Canterbury on Christian Muslim relations. He is currently working on how Muslims should be represented on Remembrance Sunday.

In the Episcopal area he highlighted working hard on what he believes God is calling us to do here. The decline in parish share means less clergy and hard choices. However, he feels there are ways of dealing with this and some churches in Bradford have increased their congregations.

Bishop Toby was asked 5 questions and many people discussed Bishop Toby's answers with interest. A very good meeting.

Gwyneth Hartley, March 2020.