

Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting of Lincoln Diocese Lay Readers, held on 7th October 2017 at 12.30pm in St Mary Magdalene Church, Bailgate, Lincoln

1. Welcome. John Marshall, Chairman, welcomed Readers to St Mary Magdalene.
2. Apologies. 46 Readers were present; 21 apologies were received.
3. Chairman's Opening Remarks. The Chairman asked all present to participate in a minute's silence to remember those friends and colleagues who were no longer with us.
4. Minutes of 75th Annual General Meeting (8/10/2016). These were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.
5. Guest Speakers: Firstly Revd Canon Dr Neil Burgess, Ministry Team Leader & Ministerial Development & Review Officer of Lincoln Diocese, addressed the meeting. He spoke about the paper 'Serving Together' (the Lay Ministries Working group report) which has made some detailed proposals about ways of developing lay ministry in both in terms of quantity and quality, based on evidence collected from various consultations. These include:
 - need for commonality of practice and to tidy up differences between dioceses
 - recognition that ministry reflects the place
 - recognition of variety of ministries
 - focus on mission which has consequences for training and preparation for ministry.

He concluded that this will be a journey of growth rather than a "once and for all" solution.

Nigel Bacon, Chair of the House of Laity and General Synod representative then spoke about how the reports 'Serving Together' and 'Setting God's People Free' sit together and are connecting through strategy in the Diocese, which all Readers should be encouraged to engage with (see handout.) The emphasis is very much on growth not managing decline. He felt the Diocesan mission statement particularly relates to Readers; be confident and build confidence in those we serve.

6. Reports.
 - 6.1 Warden of Readers. Sally Buck's written report is recorded. She thanked the Governing Body for their help and support especially John Marshall. She asked those present to endorse the two new posts of secretaries general: Marion Hewis who will represent the north of the diocese and Nigel Bacon who will represent the south. Both Readers bring different skills and areas of expertise. Margaret Smith is the CRC representative. She noted that there are still some unfilled vacancies for Area Wardens. Discussion about the area structures is planned in the future.

Sally gave more detail about the pilgrimage being led by Revd Canon Alex Whitehead to Shepherds Dene between 31 May and 4 June 2018. Themes of the pilgrimage will be linked to saints and places in the Hexham/Jarrow area. It was hoped that there would be a rolling programme of retreats, conferences and pilgrimages planned for 2018 onwards; events to suit everyone.

6.2 Chairman. John Marshall's written report is recorded. He thanked Canon Whitehead for the use of St Mary Magdalene for the meeting and for helping with the refreshments.

After some discussion, the Chairman outlined a proposal to amend the Constitution (relating to Paragraph 3.1.4) which was agreed unanimously. There were no abstentions.

"The Standing Committee shall consist of the Diocesan Warden, the Secretary General, assistant Secretaries General, the Chair of the Governing Body and the Second CRC Representative. It shall be empowered to meet to deal with any matters requiring attention between meetings of the Governing Body. It shall be convened by either the Diocesan Warden or the Secretary General after consultation with the Chair of the Governing Body."

John then gave a brief analysis of the annual survey results which for the first time was primarily done electronically. There were 96 responses and he thanked everyone who responded. In his opinion this was an easier way of capturing data and he would encourage this method in the future although hard copies would always be available.

Finally he gave his thanks to the Governing Body, Sally Buck, Shirley Keyes and Linda Wass for their assistance over the past year.

6.3 Secretary General. Shirley Keyes' report is recorded.

7.0 Any urgent business. Sara Davies gave a brief review about her experiences of ministry to and with older people and has been allocated a small grant to look at work being done in the Diocese. Her next step is to carry out a survey on the feasibility of rolling out Anna Chaplaincy. Readers will initially be asked to complete an electronic questionnaire which it is hoped will identify parts of the Diocese where provision is lacking.

John reminded everyone to check the website (www.lincolnreaders.org) for details of events going on around the Diocese. Everyone is welcome to join other areas' events.

8.0 Closure. The meeting closed at 1.27pm with the Grace.

Signed:

Date: