

Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting of Lincoln Diocese Lay Readers, held on 27th October 2018 at 12.30pm in the King Room, Edward King House Lincoln

1. **Welcome.** John Marshall, Chairman, welcomed Readers to Edward King House.
2. **Apologies.** 39 Readers were present; 15 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 including Karen Silk, David Sizer and John Perrett.
4. **Minutes of 76th Annual General Meeting (7/10/2017).** These were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

5. **Reports.**

- 5.1 **Warden of Readers.** Sally Buck's written report is recorded. She thanked everyone who have been working so hard over the past year. However, looking forward there would be a lot of changes ahead. Firstly, Sally's new title is Warden of Lay Ministry which encompasses both Readers and ALM's.

The most significant changes are happening with the Reader system both nationally and locally which is partly why her report included information from the Central Readers Council (CRC.) The identity of Readers includes:

- teachers of the faith
- being intentionally missional
- leaders of the community.

The survey that was conducted earlier this year highlighted that the current way of working isn't functioning properly and as such changes need to be made.

The next two months will be spent writing new policies for approval by the bishops.

- 5.2 **Chairman.** John Marshall's written report is recorded. He thanked Sally and the governing body for their support over the past year. He also thanked Canon Whitehead for leading the very successful pilgrimage during the summer. Linda Wass had moved to Cumbria and a total of £142 had been collected for her.

John had reviewed the guidelines for professional conduct and disciplinary measures for Readers. He had drafted interim guidelines which had been presented formally to the Governing Body and would be sent to +Nicholas for approval.

John reminded all Readers to keep a note of all engagements which would make it easier to complete the Reader Return in January 2019 and urged

Readers to complete this as soon as possible. There will be a full review in 2020.

Sally also asked Readers to keep a record of any courses attended. Marie Isaac will be adding courses throughout the year. CRC give out grants of up to £450 for funding of courses of study and there may possibly be monetary support available within the Diocese.

5.3 **Secretary General.** Shirley Keyes thanked the Assistant Secretaries General for all their hard work and support as they have been partaking in essential work on behalf of Readers.

6.0 **Report by Nigel Bacon.** Nigel's opening words were "Watch this space!". The governing body has had concerns for some time about the way the areas are functioning and also about the structure of governing body itself. Sally noted that all areas currently have Area Wardens but not all have secretaries. Part of the reason for the proposed changes is that there is a dearth of meetings in many areas and she is particularly concerned that Readers are not getting the right kind of support. A group of 12 initially met to look more deeply at the role and future of Readers and establish a vision. What is the purpose of Reader ministry? Nigel stated that he was in fact "sense checking" at the AGM to make sure that Readers agree with the proposal to review the structure and he anticipated coming back in one year's time to present new suggestions for governance and structure. The Readers present felt that they had great confidence in the members of the governing body and would support the work being carried out.

Nigel also mentioned that lay ministry reps are to be appointed to a new Mission and Ministry Committee which will make sure that lay voices are heard in future more strongly. If anyone is interested in being involved they are to contact Sally.

Nigel also asked that more people join deanery and/or diocesan synod which again offers a platform where lay views can be shared and decisions made about important Diocesan issues.

7.0 **Reader Retreat.** There is a leaflet available regarding the 2019 Retreat at Launde Abbey (6-8 September) Spaces are limited but if insufficient numbers of Readers put their names down, then they will be offered to ALM's.

8.0 **Closure.** The meeting closed at 13.21 with the Grace.

Signed:

Date: