

## **North West Leeds Deanery Synod April 2025-March 2026**

North West Leeds Deanery Synod met 3 times over the last year:

### **1. June 2025 Meeting at Holy Trinity Boar Lane**

Jonathan Wood, Diocesan Secretary was guest speaker. He explained his role in ensuring that the mission, financial sustainability and the strategy of the Diocese are served by exemplary financial management, excellent administration and people management and effective governance. He described how he and the Diocesan Team work with the Bishop and his team to equip and resource laity and clergy to carry out the Mission of the Church sharing the good news of Jesus in their communities.

Jonathan also explained the process for the appointment of a new Diocesan Bishop under the vacancy in See Regulations 2024. He stressed the importance of responding to consultation exercise that was to take place in the Summer and continuing to pray for the process. It is hoped that the new bishop will be announced in Summer 2026 and join the Diocese in Autumn 2026.

### **2. October 2025 Meeting at St Chad's Far Headingley**

Siobhan McNamara, one of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, came to the meeting. She explained how the safeguarding teams works and interacts with a wide range of other organisations, and the support available for safeguarding training and parishes. She also outlined the journey undertaken in dealing with case management. Parish Safeguarding Officers were invited to attend this session.

Alex Burbidge, the Diocesan Growing Faith Lead for the Children, came to talk to the meeting about the Growing Faith Foundation. This is part of a national education team supporting the Growing Faith movement. The movement puts children, young people and families at the heart of all the mission and ministry of the Church by changing the culture of the Church of England.

### **3. March 2026 Meeting at Otley Parish Church**

The focus of this meeting was church growth. Revd Paul Maybury talked about how the congregation had grown at Leeds Minster and Revd Phil Harris talked about growth in Morley. A paper was also shared on the Quiet Revival. These talks were followed by a time of prayer for our parishes.

Synod members were reminded that elections for all Deanery Synod lay members should take place at APCMs this year. Deanery Synod Representatives are the electorate for Diocesan representatives for General Synod and General Synod elections take place this summer.

As part of delivering our **Deanery Synod Vision 2024-2026** over the last year:

- Churches were enabled to run 'Try Praying' as a whole Deanery, achieving greater impact and cost savings
- There have been regular reports on items being discussed at Diocesan Synod.
- Volunteer role descriptions have been gathered to be shared and a template produced for producing volunteer agreement forms to comply with Safer Recruitment.

There were 2 Leeds Episcopal Area Forums meetings to which all members of Deanery Synod are invited. One focused on Identity and Race and the other on Sudan and its Church.

Di Riley  
Secretary North West Leeds Deanery Synod  
March 2026