

**DEANERY SYNOD**  
**Pickering St Peter & St Paul**  
**04 December 2025**

**Present**

Rev Joe Kinsella, Rev Paul Sunderland, Rev Yvonne Yates, Rev James Trousdale, Rev Rob Barker, Rev Mel Burnside, Ali Holmes, Robert Sword, John Castle, Margot Cairncross, Janet Richardson, Kate Senior, Sue Mumford, Sarah Hudson, Mike & Catherine Stallybrass, Nicola Woosnam, Meg Ricketts, Pamela Robb, Malcolm Howitt, Wendy Skilbeck, David Nelson, Andrew Orland, Ian Bell, Bob & Jane Williams

**Apologies**

Rev Gareth Atha, Rev Jackie Cray, Rev David Barf, James Ingham

**Lay Dean Re-Election**

Ali is willing to continue in the role, agreed by Synod.

**Opening Time of Silence & Prayer - Joe Kinsella**

**Financial Update - Robert Sword**

Delay in collecting paperwork from Helen Goodman (past Treasurer)  
2026 FWO due end of September, 3-5 parishes not yet sent offering. Diocesan deficit about £2 million each year.

**Visitation Results - Ali**

Archdeacon Amanda, Ali Holmes and clergy visited each parish.  
No major issues.

Safeguarding - some churches lack required training (anyone with public contact) - Ali will check progress in New Year

No previous visitation for many years, next due 2030 (every 5 years).

A Lastingham Warden felt the visit was like an Ofsted inspection, unclear if incumbent should be present so could freely talk about PCC issues, what happens if no wardens? No personal support for wardens and appeared to be a box ticking exercise.  
Note incumbents do not have to be present at visitation.

Was there any info pack for wardens as many do not know what is required - Amanda does a yearly online training course.

Rev Paul said the visitation list of requirements helped in knowing what to do.

Stress levels amongst wardens high. But now we know what is required it may be less stressful.

The Beadlam warden felt the visitation was positive, requirements list very helpful.

Another warden asked can someone build a digital template so everything can be recorded online?

Mike Stallybrass offered to take visitation results up with Archbishop's Council

Ali produced and distributed her own report on visitations. The archdeacon should also report.

Joe - some churches no problem, other wardens very stressed, much time to prepare.

Joe gave Ali some flowers for her work with the visitations.

### **Archbishop's Meeting 6 Nov 2025 - Ali**

Finance Roadshows of 2025 will not be repeated 2026.

Will hold thank you events for treasurers in 2026

Deanery Plan to revisit in 2nd half of 2026 - Bishop Barry to send more details later.

Ali has sent youth work info from churches to Angela Brymer at the Diocese.

Christmas events poster - please send details to Ali.

### **Deanery Synod Future – Rev Paul**

AI defines the synod as a communication hub, a decision maker, involved in pastoral reorganisation, elects members to diocesan synod

AI claims a good synod is a representative body to bring clergy and laity together, builds community, governance, mission between churches, intermediary between parishes and diocese, debates topical issues, implements diocesan decisions

People may not know who can come to synods. All deanery synods are open to church members from across the deanery.

We divided into small groups to discuss this.

### **Group Feedback on Synod**

Pooling resources where churches cannot find their own volunteers

A clear voice to Diocese, need feedback from Diocese, parishes feel not listened to.

Effective planning – to specify actions to take, delivery dates, how progress measured.

Advertise on social media

Plan a year of meetings in advance and send to members

Communication, networking eg deanery website (see Church Near You web) with shared church activities.

Deanery newsletter? Do Clergy/Laity update parishes with deanery news?

Is diocese relevant to us?

A buddy system eg roles meet together, phone a friend. Problem sharing but are there solutions? People do not know who is who/from where.

Prayer and listening to God needed at each synod. Sometimes our agenda prevents us from hearing from God.

Deanery Welcome Pack to send out to new members (where known).

Synods start with a meal for fellowship

Informative talk, share local good news stories and best practice.

Practical advice eg church insurance, cashless giving, treasurers, wardens, safeguarding – volunteers will come forward if they know what is involved

Bishop Barry to attend once a year.

Finance discuss once a year.

Thanks needed eg Wardens for their work

Mission – less emphasis on money or legalities, more on work across churches

Do Synod members report back to parish?

We need members commitment, coming to meetings, taking part

Can we query diocesan synod? Laity contact lay members (see end), clergy see Bishop Barry.

To ask for consent to publicise synod members email addresses and parishes to other synod members.

### **Other Events**

Stonegrave Church now has working heating thanks to a donor.

Helmsley Church - Friday 7pm 5/12/25 Entertaining Angels event - see social media

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month 2pm bereavement cafe at Beadlam Grange

21st Dec 3pm Gilling Church - Blue Christmas Service for isolated, grieving.

### **Closed with Grace**

### **Next Synod**

12<sup>th</sup> February, St Peter & Paul, Pickering, 7pm for 7.30pm start

### **Deanery Leaders**

Rev Joe Kinsella - revjk@btinternet.com

Rev Paul Sunderland - vicar@kirkbymoorsideparish.org.uk

Ali Holmes - aliholmes.laydean@gmail.com

John Castle – castle@moorsweb.co.uk

### **Diocesan Synod Members**

John Castle – castle@moorsweb.co.uk

James Ingham - ingham521@btinternet.com

Mike Stallybrass - mostallybrass@aol.com

Last Diocesan Synod minutes - <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/diocesan-synod-saturday-5th-july-2025/>