

.
DEANERY SYNOD
Pickering St Peter and St Paul
09 Jul 2026

PRESENT

Rev Paul Sunderland, Rev Rob Barker, Rev Mel Burnside, Rev James Trowsdale, Ann Armstrong, Ann Bannister, John Castle, Rev Jackie Cray, Rev Graham Cray, Helen Halkyard, Alison Holmes, Patricia Humber, James Ingham, Sue Mumford, Ann Procope, Janet Richardson, Stella Stacey, Robert Sword, Lucy Wilshaw, Clive Armstrong, John Bancroft, Paul Barker, Jo Bonham, Adam Collier, Pam Dennis, P Dawson-Brown, Cathy Faulkner, Alison Harland, Kate Orc, Barbara Stonehouse, Lesley Warwick, Richard & Nicola Woosnam

APOLOGIES

Rev Barff, Rev Yvonne Yates, Ian Bell, St John Harris

OPENING PRAYER

Reading 2 Corinthians 3

REV JAMES TROWSDALE - End of Life Care/Bereavement Support

- 1 A shared calling
- 2 What can care offer
- 3 To build a deanery-wide network of spiritual care

All have a duty to care

Nature of Care - comfort all people, prayer in faith is "powerful and effective" (James), Jesus gives the weary rest, there are few specialists of the soul, clergy give end of life care to a range of people (spiritually). Key is to listen, to give attention. Care has a significant effect in health, reconciliation, peace.

Carers need to build links with nurses, doctors etc.

Anyone in our deanery who is admitted to hospital please approach James if no parish provision available.

Bereavement support - bereavement cafe at Beadlam Grange (Mel, James) 2nd Monday 2pm each month - 10-12 come. Not counselling but friendship in a safe place.

Also groups in Kirkbymoorside and Malton but not enough groups to cover demand.

James is building a directory of bereavement support for diocese for use by clergy, GPs, social prescribers etc - work in progress. A social prescriber is a doctor who refers the lonely etc to such groups eg gyms, activities.

Pastoral support is a witness of God's mission to everyone church or not. Calling to offer peace and wholeness privately or together in services, prayer trees. Also work together with other denominations.

Support needs to be visible, accessible. Work together with other agencies. No one should be forgotten.

ADAM COLLIER, Funeral Director

Started in 2000. Covered Kirkbymoorside, Pickering, Malton. Company bought out by large group so left to form own business covering A170 corridor.

When planning a funeral, ensure a funeral director is a member of a professional body for better standards.

Adam has had faith in God since childhood.

He meets people at the most difficult point of life. People are least comfortable discussing death. His role extends beyond arranging funerals. Work with paramedics and police e.g. road accidents, suicides, murders.

Care before death profoundly shapes grief afterwards. Peace rather than regret is likely if kindness and respect are given.

Nor does church ministry end at death. Is there someone prepared to sit with you?

Grief does not follow a timetable. It does not get better but you learn to walk without the person. Grief may rise at anniversaries or odd times like hearing a piece of music etc.

A funeral may be burial or cremation, with or without clergy. Humanists will not allow hymns, prayers etc so Adam does not use their services.

More funerals are now in church with clergy.

Cremation does not help people process grief.

Need for trust of funeral directors - every life has value, dignity. Funeral services are increasingly bespoke to reflect the dead person's values.

Bereavement care does not end with the funeral. People need compassion, time, honesty. Hope does not remove grief but death is not the end - believers will meet again one day. There is a duty to walk alongside and not leave someone to walk alone. Compassion is never wasted.

The funeral service is really for those who remain.

QUESTIONS

Direct cremations offer a very minimal service without support.

Assisted Dying - what can we do as a church? Palliative care is not getting much finance - hospices are short of funds.

The path to death comes in many ways, not always known to doctors etc.

NEXT SYNOD

Late September TBC - deanery planning

Thanks to those who provided refreshments.