Report on Deanery Synod 2024/25

Since the last Joint Annual Meeting the Synod has met three times, on 23/05/2024, 24/09/2024 & 05/02/2025.

23.05.2024

The meeting featured a presentation on Garden Church, described as a network of Missional communities or House Churches or Micro Churches that meet in public spaces and look to practice the ways of Jesus - simple, sustainable and sociable. They live out those values by coming together to read scriptures, pray and share resources and food. The aim is to work alongside parish churches, not to supplant them.

More can be found out about Garden Church at [Garden Church (garden-church.org)](https://garden-church.org/)

24/09/2024

Milee Brambleby of the Diocesan Mediation Team spoke on the theme of disagreeing well: how can we disagree agreeably? She suggested three rules to help:

1. Be curious about ourselves and how we feel or what we want from a situation;
2. Be curious about other people and what they feel or want;
3. Prepare our institution in supporting us to disagree agreeably - Milee suggested an agreed a set of rules about how you will work together may set the expectation of how to work together.

05/02/2025

The meeting featured a visit from Very Rev’d Andrew Braddock, Dean of Norwich. Brief presentations were given describing the life of each benefice; the Dean spoke of these affirmingly. He was concerned to strengthen or establish links between the cathedral & the parishes; there was discussion on what the Cathedral meant to people – many & varied answers were given. The Dean thought the Cathedral complemented what’s happening in local churches; he mentioned three priorities:

1. Growing Faith – 1,500 services a year, as well as work with visitors & schools;
2. Engaging visitors, over 500,000 a year;
3. Service to the wider community, the Diocese, the City and County – cathedral staff visit local churches, the choir sings in other places, cathedral staff work with home-schooling families to help with faith teaching.

Apart from the reports on every benefice given on 05/02, at other meetings the synod was updated with reports on the benefices in vacancy; we were pleased at the appointment of Rev’d Dave Hanson to the Yare Valley churches & of Rev’d Jane Morris to the Lingwood benefice. At the meeting of 09/24 Synod bade farewell to Rev’d Kevin Billson of Blofield. Presentation to the Blofield benefice was suspended pending a reorganisation of the Blofield & Broadside benefices.

There were elections to Diocesan Synod; Rev’d Martin Greenland & Rev’d Sue Shillam for the clergy, Catherine Howe & Hilary Hammond for the laity.

Payment of parish share featured regularly: the amount paid in 2024 was slightly more than for 2023, but this was a smaller percentage of the amount requested. About 15% of the amount requested for 2024 remains unpaid (the figure for our benefice was a little over 20%).