

# Winwick Deanery Synod

St Peter, Newton-le-Willows  
Emmanuel, Wargrave  
All Saints, Newton-le-Willows  
St John the Baptist, Earlestown  
St Oswald, Winwick  
Christ Church, Croft  
St Mary, Lowton

St Helen, Hollinfare  
All Saints, Glazebury  
Newchurch, Culcheth  
St James the Great, Haydock  
St Michael & All Angels, Burtonwood  
St Luke, Lowton  
St Thomas, Golborne

**Minutes of the Deanery Synod Meeting Wednesday 18th March 2026**  
**St Thomas Golborne WA3 3TH**  
**7:00 for 7:30 pm meeting**

## 1. Opening Prayers

## 2. Register & Apologies:

Apologies have been received from Rev James Taylor, Rev David Smith, Rev Suzanne Quick, Bill Haydocks, Hazel Groom Hollis and John Groom Hollis, Rev Bob Lewis

Attendance list at back of minutes

## 3. Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Proposed** Veronica Hancock

**Seconded** Alan Wright

## 4. Update on Safeguarding – Karen Williams

Karen provided a quick update on the safeguarding audit of the Diocese that is currently ongoing. The Diocesan team have met with the audit team –and so far, it is quite positive

Karen went on to explain the importance of safeguarding within the Church of England particularly in light of the various issues and failings in the past. In particular those identified by Professor Jay in her 2024 report – the [Future of Church Safeguarding report](#) .An outline of next steps in the response from the church can be found at the link. A key importance is that Professor Jay has [agreed to develop proposals](#) around independence in safeguarding in the Church.

As part of the Churches response, keeping people safe in our churches is a priority and a safeguarding standard have been drawn up.

PCC members have responsibility to ensure these standards are implemented. As a charity the PCC are trustees and need to adhere to standards. Clergy and PSO are leadership within the PCC.

The Diocesan safeguarding team were recognised as being under resourced so are in the process of increasing capacity, contact details of the team are available on the website

Karen outlined what safeguarding is and that the PCCs in particular need to identify and manage possible risks. The PSO does not need to be on the PCC but there must be a direct link. It is recognised that there are particular risks for faith groups –

- churches are run by volunteers
- churches having an open door to all
- we are welcoming and trusting and believe in redemption
- we often don't know individuals very well.

Karen spoke on the safeguarding dashboard; one member of the PCC needs to have oversight if the PSO is not on the PCC.

The dashboard is the key document that both tell individual parishes where they are but also can inform the diocese of the position of each church so they can provide support.

Code of safer working practice. To be shared with all volunteers. Cultural issues are key rather than just protocols,

Karen referred to several documents that will be shared by email as well as the slides from her presentation.

Key appointment is the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO).

Safeguarding display and posters were discussed.

Safer recruitment was discussed particularly with respect to individuals that could receive a disclosure of abuse.

On-line training but - Face to face training is available. Basic foundation and domestic abuse training.

Records need to be locked in a cupboard in a locked room on the premises.

Incident reporting – PCC responsibility to be open and transparent

Karen has links for the guidance on how to report a serious incident in your charity

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-report-a-serious-incident-in-your-charity#what-to-report>

Finally, the Charities Commission provide training to support trustees to be more effective in their roles in regard to Safeguarding: you can find these advertised on the Charities Commission website. I have listed a link to a short video to introduce the topic to the rest of your PCC members, should you wish to use it:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qc\\_YADd2CQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qc_YADd2CQ)

## **5. Partners in Mission and formation of the LSP**

Martin outlined the current progress made in the Deanery with respect to formation of the larger single parish (LSP). Martin highlighted that although all parishes within the Deanery would not be in the LSP – it was important to recognise that all churches within the Deanery are in partnership on mission and are all seeking to grow our congregations and develop new worshipping communities,

The work on the LSP started in the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and since then a significant number of activities have taken place Including:

- Navigation team has been formed to lead the work of the formation of the LSP, the team is meeting weekly and includes observers from parishes outside the LSP.
- 🏠 Safeguarding & Governance – meeting tomorrow evening of all PSO in St Oswalds Winwick 6pm.
- Churchwardens & Treasurers: First session held; next meeting on 18th April, 10–12 at Croft Parish Church.
- Two upcoming sessions:  
Cultivate: Sat 25th April 10–12 at St Oswald’s Parish Hall. Lead by the Rev Frank Hinds  
Support Services: Sat 16th May 10–12, venue TBC.
- 🏢 Buildings Strategy  
Initial session for the Right Buildings process held on 14th March. Initial technical buildings inspections are underway
- 👤 Recruitment Update  
Ruth Fielding appointed as Larger Single Parish Administrator.  
Role begins 20th April.  
Interim contact: ncwministryoffice@gmail.com
- February’s Communication for Mission workshop was well attended.
- Churches encouraged to nominate a Communications Champion.
- Next Deanery Choral Evensong: 4th October, 4pm at St Oswald’s, Winwick.
- Webpage [Winwick Deanery Website – Winwick Deanery](#)  
The deanery now has a web page which will be used for Deanery information and LSP information. It is only basic at present but will become populated as we progress.
- Pastoral Reorganisation timetable clear timetable, we are supported by Kim Stanley to guide us through this process.
- Finance arrangements – a handout is available that describes the 2 funding streams available from the Diocese to support churches. The FfM transition funding £87 over next 18 months – then the DIP funding only comes online when we engage with Deanery mission planning – money available cohort by cohort over next 6 years  
Clear wall between the 2 funding stream which cannot not be crossed.

## Clergy deployment

Martin outlined that the DMPC is ultimately responsible for proposing the deployment of clergy within the Deanery to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee. This is absolutely linked to our finances and what parish share is paid. At present the Deanery has a stipendiary clergy complement of 7 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) posts, and the current Deanery parish share is linked to the number of posts.

Also relevant is that currently there are roughly 7000 stipendiary clergy across the UK in the Church of England – current predictions are that this will reduce to ~ 5000 in the next 5 years.

Within the 7 FTE posts we currently have 0.5 FTE allocated to schools ministry so if we disaggregate the 0.5 FTE the deanery has 6.5 FTE parochial posts.

Martin outlined some thoughts with respect to deployment – an option being considered is to deploy clergy on the basis of 2 groups – 7 in each - East of the M6 (St Thomas, St Marys, St Lukes, Newchurch, Croft, All Saints Glazebury & St Helens) and west of the M6 (St Oswalds, St James. St Peters, All Saints Newton, St Johns, St Michaels & Emanuel) of the M6.

West would have 3.5 FTE including Fr Michael who serves St James Haydock, and 3 FTE for the east side of the Deanery.

Within this we need to acknowledge that currently we have a vacancy in the Lowton team, also that Rev Tim retires on the 16<sup>th</sup> April and that Rev Bob will leave his House for Duty post by the end of September 2026, also the Newton team have a self-supporting minister – Rev Veronica whose Licence will renewed in May.

Recruitment is underway for the Lowton post.

It is a hugely challenging time for the Deanery with all these changes.

A paper on how to shape these posts is being developed that will be put to the DMPC in April for discussion that will be presented to the Synod at a later date.

## **6. Partners in Mission: The Deanery Plan**

Originally a short presentation followed by break out groups to discuss the 4 Diocesan themes/priorities and how they apply to Winwick Deanery was planned. Unfortunately, due to limited time at the meeting, it was not possible to discuss these themes. However, each church was asked to consider how these themes/priorities applied to the Deanery and each parish within the Deanery at their next PCC.

These are

- introducing people to Jesus,
- deepening discipleship,
- developing Christian leaders, and
- working for justice.

## **7. Partners in Mission: Parish Share Sustainability meeting**

Martin presented the graphic entitled the Doom Cycle and sustainability cycle (appended to minutes). The doom cycle is a graphical representation of the issues within the church of England with declining populations and finances. Significant conversations are being held in the wider church of England where many parishes, but not all, have declining and aging congregation – lower collections and fewer burnt-out volunteers. A recent report identified that a 1/3 clergy are suffering significant depression. We now have an opportunity through FfM money and receipt of the DIP funding – to go for growth – new and bigger congregation getting better finances and more volunteers. This missional growth is the vision to move from Doom to sustainability the second graphic – a move from managed decline to growth.

We have a A3 laminated version of these cycles for each church for clergy to use to talk to their PCC's and congregations – possibly at the APCM or other opportunities.

Next parish share meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April Croft – where this will also be presented. Also, the revised parish share model as developed by the Dioceses will be presented. A proposal is to be presented at the Diocesan Synod on Saturday – this will be voted on at the next Diocesan Synod in November for implementation in 2027. The diocesan formular will result in a parish share for each parish which will be amalgamated to a Deanery amount. The Deanery “share” can then be allocated to each parish as they see fit.

Our current 7 FTE parochial posts is dependent on all parishes meeting our parish share obligation – parish share payment will have a direct impact on funding posts irrespective of whether churches are in LSP or not.

Basically, the DIP funding was provided on basis that growth will pay full Diocese parish share in the future as no further support can be offered from the national church. The Diocese will need to be self-supporting or live within its means. Liverpool is getting considerably more support than others are getting because they recognise that Liverpool is not declining as much as other Diocese's and does not have financial reserves such as glebe land. In addition, it was recognised that Liverpool is proactively looking at growth opportunities i.e. the FfM process.

**Whether in or out we need to pay our way on parish share. Please encourage your treasurers or church wardens to come to meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. It is important all churches are represented.**

## **8. Forthcoming elections of Deanery Synod representatives**

The meeting was reminded that this year all Deanery Synod representatives need to be elected at the relevant parish APCM. A calling note has been sent out to all PCC secretaries from the diocese – by Gordon Fath. The key date is that all elections must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026 and the term of office for those elected will be 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2029. The number of representatives per parish is dependent on the electoral roll of the parish as renewed last year. If you are unclear how many representatives you may elect please contact Gordon Fath by email on [Gordon.fath@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:Gordon.fath@liverpool.anglican.org) or you phone on 0151 705 2180.

9. Due to pressure of work as the LSP clergy change lead Rev Martin has recognised that it is not feasible for him to carry on as Area Dean and he has thus tendered his resignation to the Archdeacon effective from the end of April this year. He noted that it has been a privilege to serve as Area Dean for Winwick over the last 2 years.

Paul Hancock as lay chair thanked Martin for his service and the work he had done in the Deanery.

## **10. Dates of next meeting: FYI**

Parish Share Sustainability Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 Christ church Croft

Next DMPC 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 11:30 St Oswalds Church Hall

Dates for next Deanery Synod

Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup> Venue TBC

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October Venue TBC (to align with of submission of Deanery Plan to Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee)

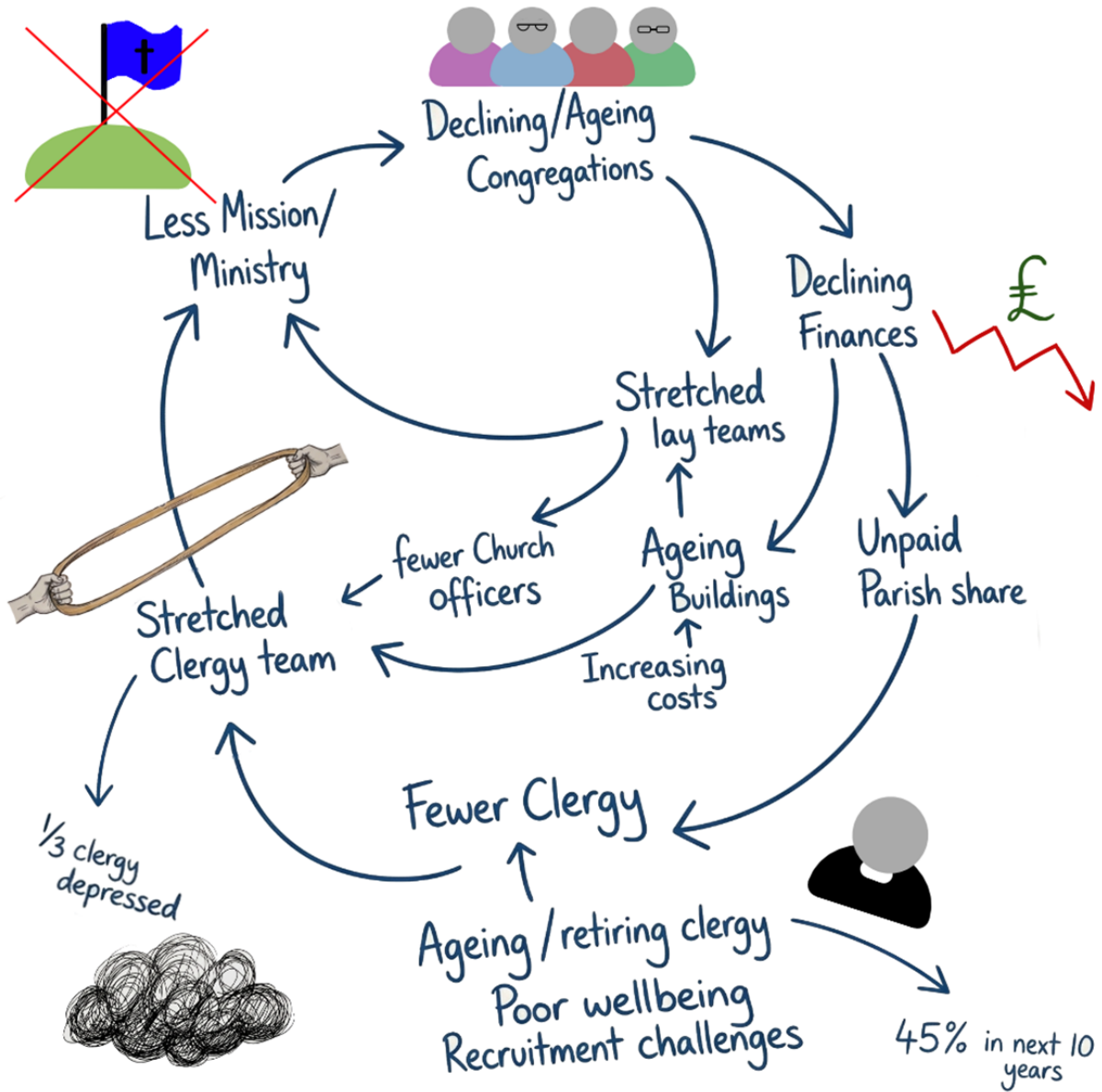
## **11. Close of meeting**

**Winwick Deanery Synod 18th March 2026 St Thomas Golborne**

First names are in alphabetical order, please enter P=present or A=apology as appropriate

	Representing	
Alan Wright	Newchurch - Culcheth	P
Alison Isherwood	St Marys Lowton	P
Ann Chantler	St Lukes, Lowton	P
Barbara Alldred	Newchurch - Culcheth	P
Bill Davis	St John The Baptist - Earlestown	P
Bill Haydock	St James - Haydock	A
Christine Melia	Treasurer	P
Daniel Miller	St Thomas - Golborne	P
David Clifton	All Saints - Glazebury	P
Edith Firth	Christ Church - Croft	P
Eddie Caulfield	St Mary Lowton	A
Fiona Glover	St Thomas - Golborne	P
Hazel Groom-Hollis	St James - Haydock	A
Ian Henry	St Peter - N le W -	P
Janice Cooper	St Oswald - Winwick	P
Jean Williams	Newchurch - Culcheth	P
Jim Talbot	St Lukes, Lowton	A
John Groom-Hollis	St James - Haydock	A
Karen Brierley	St Oswald - Winwick	P
Kath Pennington	St Lukes Lowton	P
Liz Thomas	St Oswald - Winwick Secretary	P
Louise Forshaw	Emmanuel - Wargrave N-le-W	A
Lyn Brunt	St Thomas - Golborne	A
Lynn Mayne	St Michael & All Angels- Burtonwood	A
Margaret Mills	St Michael & All Angels- Burtonwood	P
Merril Cummerson	Christ Church - Croft	A
Paul Hancock	Lay Chair	P
Peter Laycock	Christ Church - Croft	A
Raymond Shaw	St Helen - Hollinfare	A
Roy Evans	St Helen - Hollinfare	P
Sylvia Turner	St James - Haydock	P
Terry Case	All Saints - N-le -W	P
Virginia Baglee	St Helen - Hollinfare	P
Rev Martin Cox	Area Dean	P
Rev Dr Chris Stafford	All Saints - N-le-W /Team Rector /Schools' Minister	P
Rev Dr Ian Wynne	St James - Haydock NS	A
Rev Trevor Hodson	Culcheth Group	A
Rev Tim Griffiths	St Michael & All Angels- Burtonwood	P
Rev Veronica Hancock	Emmanuel - Wargrave N-le-W NS	P
Rev Michael Vyse	St James - Haydock Assistant Area Dean	P
Rev Annie Houghton	Lowton Golborne Team	A
Rev Suzanne Quick	Newton Team	A
Rev James Taylor	St Peter N-le-W	A
Rev Martin Fuller	Culcheth Group	P
Rev Bob Lewis	Glazebury & Hollinfare	A
Rev David Smith	Newton Team	A

### DOOM CYCLE



# SUSTABILITY CYCLE

