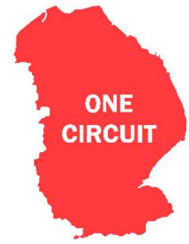


A Post September Synod Update



Synod on 12th September in Sleaford was one of the best attended Synods I've seen in this District. All the members of District Council and Reshaping Groups were delighted to see so many extra attendees present, listening and contributing to the possible reshaping of the District from 8 Circuits into 1 in order that we all have more time and help to be better followers of Jesus.

All 3 Reshaping Groups gave presentations on the work so far: The origins of the work, various stages of discussion and decision, an idea of a 'hub and spoke' grouping of churches, and the outline of the 2 support teams; Discipleship and Mission based in the hub and spokes, and Administration and Compliance across the new Circuit. Finally, came the formal vote for the day that we take the proposal out to every Church Council and every Circuit Meeting to gather their responses. An amendment to the resolution was put that we take until April to pause, pray, and give the opportunity for further reflection on the model proposed. This was not adopted, however, the District Council recognised the concerns being raised and is thinking about how they can be taken on board in the next stage of the task.

The next stage began almost immediately. Members of District Council and the Reshaping Groups have been discussing over emails and in a zoom meeting what resource is needed for every Church Council and Circuit Meeting to be able to consider the question of 1 Circuit with due diligence. There is a balance to be struck between not enough information and too much. Therefore, at present, we think there will be an essential information pack alongside details of where more information can be found. There will also be guidance notes to help all those chairing these meeting to do so. At present it seems that several Circuits have already made the decision to hold these meetings in the new year. The deadline for the responses is mid-March in order that we can report back to April Synod and consider the responses when we look at what next. Everyone involved in this work has been doing this alongside other roles, jobs and responsibilities. It will, therefore, take us a few weeks to be able to produce the resources needed, however, we will get them to the Circuit Superintendents in good time. They will then be responsible for sharing them more widely.

At Synod a new District Prayer card was distributed to every Circuit. On it you will find a rainbow of colour behind an outline of Lincolnshire, while from north to south and east to west runs a cross with the words: 'I have come that you may have life in all its fulness' written on it. You are invited to write a prayer for yourself, your church, your community, this reshaping work and hold it throughout this Connexional year as we seek to continue to be blown by God's Spirit to the people and places God wants us to be.

As ever, if there are any questions or queries please get in touch.

God bless

Rev Angy