**YORKSHIRE NORTH AND EAST DISTRICT**

**Minutes of the Presbyteral Session of Synod 2020**

Revd Leslie Newton (Chair), Revd Ann Fox (Secretary)

The Presbyteral Synod was due to meet on Thursday, 19 March 2020.

The Chair circulated a notice to Synod members on 17 March, stating that in the light of the recently updated Government advice, and in common with other Districts across the Connexion, the Presbyteral Synod called for Thursday 19 March 2020 will not meet.

Separate communication was circulated to ask for agreement to the following necessary items of business and members’ responses to the Annual Inquiry, by email.

1. **Approval of Probationers to remain on probation**

A report from the District Probationers' Secretary, Revd Ben Clowes, was circulated, setting out the unanimous recommendations of the District Probationers Committee that Ian Greenfield and Moses John remain on Probation for a further twelve months. Members approved.

**2. Permission for two of our number to sit down**

The Revds Pat Malham and Robert Amos seek permission.  They would both have spoken to the Synod, and it is hoped that there will be opportunity in due course for us to hear from them.

**3.   Approval of obituaries**

The following obituaries were circulated:

a) Revd Neil Graham, presented by Revd David Godfrey, Thirsk & Northallerton Circuit.

b) Revd P Michael Willson, presented by Revd Neville Simpson, Pocklington & Market Weighton Circuit.

**4.   Approval of presbyters wishing to attend Presbyteral Session of Conference at their own expense.**

The Revd Doreen Hare had requested permission. Members approved.

**5. Annual Inquiry**

The questions relating to the Annual Inquiry had been circulated and members responses were subsequently recorded.

**6. Act of Recollection**

The words of the Act of Recollection were circulated so that members may use them in their personal devotions, together with a hymn written by Andrew Brown (District Property Secretary and Local Preacher in the Nidd Valley Circuit). The Chair invited members to join him on Facebook Live at 11am on Thursday 19th March, where he led viewers in this liturgy and gave a reflection on John 11: 32-37.

The following prayer was circulated:

**Prayer**

*God of all hope we call on you today.  
We pray for those who are living in fear:  
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.  
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.  
  
We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.  
For those people who are worried about attending worship.  
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other  
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.  
Grant us your wisdom.*

*Holy God, we remember that you have promised that  
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.  
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.*

*Amen*

(Date of Presbyteral Session of Synod 2021:

11 March at Pocklington Methodist Church)