

Heywood & Middleton Deanery

Minutes of meeting of the Deanery Synod held on Monday, 14 June 2004 at St Margaret, Heywood,

1. Prayers

The Area Dean opened the meeting with prayers

2. Present

There were 30 members present with 13 apologies for absence.

Mrs Marcia Wall chaired the meeting

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 2nd Feb 2004 at St Gabriel, Middleton Junction were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

It was reported that Rev'd Julia Bebbington had settled in to her new Parish and had been made to feel very welcome.

5. Election of Officers

<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Elected Member</i>
Board for Church & Society	No nominations
USPG/CMS	No nominations
Standing Committee (Clergy)	Rev'd Geoff Turner
Pastoral Committee (Clergy)	Rev'd Adrian Gallagher
Diocesan Synod (Clergy - 2 places)	Rev'd Adrian Gallagher Rev'd Andy Pell
Election of Lay Secretary	Mr John Pye

The above were nominated and in the event of no other nomination, each was elected into their respective posts.

Members were asked to give further thought to the unfilled posts.

6. Financial Report

Mr George Etugo reported the following balances:

Halifax Current Account	£245.22p
Yorkshire Cheque Account	£442.56p

The Standing Committee had borne the expense of the Clergy Away-Day, but some monies had been recovered from the Diocese as, for some clergy, the day qualified for grants for training purposes. Bills for photocopying for the Focus on Evangelism event and web registration fees had still to be claimed.

All members were in favour of a request by George for a £20 contribution from each Parish to support the running costs of the Deanery. It was left to the discretion of the Heywood Team how many Parishes they comprise.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Area Dean's Announcements

✍ **Rev'd Chris Falone**

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Chris had now returned to work but had sent his apologies for this meeting.

✍ **St John's Primary School, Thornham**

The adjudicator had rejected the proposals to close the school, which will now become Aided from Sep 2004.

✍ **New Parish Share Allocation based on Income**

The Standing Committee had met to open all the 'Ballot Boxes' of income form returns from Parishes. Results had been submitted to the Diocese but the new share figures were not yet available. Nick noted that some returns were probably erroneous with around nine returns showing incomes in excess of £91K! It is likely that annual incomes had been entered as monthly incomes. Marcia had taken some photos of the 'event'.

✍ **Mrs Marcia Wall**

Nick congratulated Marcia on her being accepted for Ordination Training, which begins in Sept 2004. Marcia indicated that she would resign her post as Lay Chairman at the November Deanery Synod.

9. Written Reports

• **Board of Finance:**

George reported that two meetings had had to be disbanded as there wasn't a quorum. The third meeting, for which no quorum rule now applies, would be held on June 21st 2004. A move is afoot to reduce the number deemed to constitute a quorum to try to avoid this problem in future.

• **Board of Ministry and Society:**

No report

• **Pastoral Committee:**

○ **St James**

The committee had met on March 15th 2004. The Heywood situation had been discussed w.r.t St James, Heywood. St James' representatives had met with the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and had sent in their views. The outcome is awaited.

○ **Deployment of Stipendiary Clergy**

An extra Deanery Synod meeting to discuss the Clergy Development Strategy had been called for June 24th at 7:30pm to be held in the Old Grammar School. The Ven. John Applegate, Archdeacon of Bolton, would be presenting the paper, which was circulated at the meeting. It was requested that at least 3 people from each Parish attend.

The paper would then be considered at the Nov 2004 Diocesan Synod.

• **Diocesan Synod Report**

Marcia summarised the proceedings and a summary of the report has been published in the April 2004 edition of CRUX.

Topics discussed were:

- Methodist Covenant: Outline plans present for future interchange of ministries, buildings and human resources, presented by the Bishop of Manchester.
- Priority Parishes: a new scheme for helping weaker parishes, presented by the Bishop of Hulme.
- 'Mission Shaped Church': report of discussion at General Synod

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- 'Passing Winter': update of report on racism, report by the Bishop of Bolton.
- Clergy Deployment: opening of discussions on the future deployment of clergy, presented by the Archdeacon of Bolton. Discussions followed but the main debate was postponed to a future occasion
- **General Synod Report**

Nick highlighted the main topics in the report. Copies of the full report were made available at the meeting (*and can be sent out on request. Ed.*). Summaries are also available in the Church Times and CofE newspaper.

10. Deanery Web Site

John Pye reported that a pilot version of the Deanery Website was now available for comments and would welcome further contributions from members. Whilst under development it can be accessed at

www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org/deanery/v2

Members permission, or otherwise, was sought for their contact details to be made visible on the site.

John requested that church summary details on the front page be checked and he be notified of any errors. Any errors will also be present in the Diocesan Handbook from which details were gleaned. John offered to co-ordinate the rectification of any errors found.

John again offered to assist any Parish that wished to start a website.

11. Parish Share 2004

A motion to give approval for the Standing Committee to moderate any new Parish Share allocations from the Diocese was approved with one abstention. There would be limits on the rate of increase or decrease of any given Parish Share allocation. It was also agreed that the process of moderation would be transparent to all parishes. To assist the moderation process, George Etugo would be pleased to receive copies of annual accounts from parishes, if not already submitted, as soon as possible.

12. Main Item: " Focus on Evangelism"

Nick summarised the event:

- Not every parish participated
- Youth Leaders course was not well attended
- Robin Gamble made clergy aware of the potential for resourcing youth work if a sufficient 'head of steam' of interest and commitment can be generated. A meeting on June 29th @ St Martin, Castleton, with incumbents, is to be held to explore possibilities.
- Guest Service was affected by clash of dates.
- PCC evening was well supported with 50- >60 people attending
- Bank Holiday trip to Bolton Abbey didn't happen.
- Evening with Robin Gamble at St Michael, Tonge was well attended and although Robin thought it not valuable, members disagreed. The audit checklist was thought to be very useful.
- The clergy 'Away-day' was much enjoyed in the sunshine. Everyone had worked hard and gained a lot from the event.
- The Celebration Service on Ascension Day with the Bishop of Manchester was the best attended time of worship.

Parishes reports:

- **St Martin, Castleton:**

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Guest Service was well attended, but it was felt that it wasn't representative of 'normal' services or work within the Parish.

- **St Luke, Heywood:**
The 'All-Age' Service led by Steve Dixon was thought to be a successful coming together of all the Parishes in the Team.
- **St Michael, Tonge**
The experience of 'Walk the week' with Robin was a spiritual turning point for some attendees. Many ideas ensued for involving 'the fringe'.
- **St Leonard, Middleton**
Quiz at Old Boar's Head was successful with 60 people attending and won by a team from Hopwood. Robin spoke at the end and there were lots of good questions and conversation.
- **All Saints and Martyr's, Langley**
The Flower Festival was very successful; financially, as well. Philip recognised the high standards that it had set. Robin came to the Guest Service, which was well attended with lots of new people and Brigade members' parents present. Philip picked up lots of ideas from seeds Robin had sewn.
- **St Thomas, Bowlee**
John reported a successful '(Steve) Chalke and Cheese' evening, with the viewing of the 'Faithworks' video, with people from a number of parishes attending, some from Christchurch, Harpurhey.
(Ed: To order: Phone 0845 607 1672: KESW97: Morning Seminar: Faithworks – How to change your Community for Christ)

Summary and outcomes:

- Marcia felt that the fellowship the event generated was very important, but thought the organisational preparation for the event could have been better.
- Nick was to ask Robin to reflect on the overall merits of the event.
- St Martin's had gained confidence to hold more 'Guest Services'
- Others expressed the view that it had enabled us to get together as a Deanery.
- St Leonard's were setting up a working party on Evangelism and their 'Enquirers Group' was to continue.
- Invitational material for "Back to Church Sunday" (see CRUX) has been made available by a sponsor.
- A new 6 week pre-Alpha introductory 'Start Course' was now available.
- Robin's Parish Audit checklist was a valuable resource.
- Diocese of Manchester is about to receive more money to support Mission Projects. This would give more support for Robin's work.

13.AOB

- **Post of Area Dean**
Nick informed the meeting that his five year term as Area Dean comes to an end in Oct. He indicated that he would be unlikely to agree to continue if asked.
- **Deanery Youth Leaders Evening**
A meeting is to be held on Sunday 29th June at St Martin, Castleton.
- **Parish Contribution**
The £20 contribution from the Parishes to fund the running expenses of the Deanery should be made payable to Heywood and Middleton Deanery and sent to:
Mr George Etugo, 27 Poppy Close, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 9US

14.Closing Prayers

Marcia closed the meeting with The Grace at 9:30pm.