

THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

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Minutes of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod

Tuesday 3rd June 2008 at St Michael, Tonge

1. Opening Prayers

Rev'd Ian Butterworth, opened the meeting promptly at 7:30pm with prayers.

2. Welcome to new members

Four new members were welcomed and IB said that any comments they might have about the content or the style of this or any other Synod meeting would be very welcome and greatly appreciated.

3. MAIN ITEM

Rev'd Martin McGonigle, Chaplain to Springhill Hospice gave a talk on his work with children & families and with people at the Hospice.

Martin explained the role of the Hospital Chaplain as essentially being one of a foster carer, working in partnership with patients' local clergy and religious leaders of other faiths.

The main objective was to help each patient celebrate their own faith in the best way possible. He related how additional provisions had been made for other faiths to have their own worship centre and even a quiet space for secular needs.

He went on to outline the scope of the work of a hospice and how we should not think of a Hospice as a 'place of death' saying that 75% of people who came into care at the Hospice do leave having benefited from the care provided.

Care comes in many forms: not only 'End of life' and palliative care but also respite care for up to 2 week periods and 'fun' things for long term carers : pamper days, head massage, pedicure. A Day Hospice is provided on 4 days/week, 2 days being mixed and single sex days on the other 2 days. This provides an important social aspect to meet and talk with others experiencing similar problems. Advice is provided over hygiene issues, hairdressing and wig styling, as well as diversional therapies, counselling services such as bereavement counselling and care, post-terminal diagnosis counselling, funeral care and spiritual care. Practical advice is also given concerning financial issues such as costs and grants that are available. They also provide a 24hr Help Line.

He explained that the Hospice is entirely funded by charitable donations and fund-raising events, highlighting that over £10,000 was raised at their last Christmas Fair in under 6 hours.

He ended his talk by highlighting the issues raised by the Assisted Dying Bill shortly to be presented to Parliament. He illustrated the moral dilemmas that we face by asking:

- Will it change the nature and character of a Hospice?
- Will palliative care still be an option?
- Who will decide on the 'quality of a person's life'?
- What does it mean to be human against that of being a dog?
- How will the sanctity of life be defined?
- What will the patient's rights be?
- What choice of treatments will still be made available?
- What will relations rights be?

In response to a question from the floor, Martin explained that not being an NHS funded organisation allows total independence and the ability to focus on patient needs and needs of the community they serve without external interference determining priorities.

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The talk was very well received and IB thanked him for his most interesting and thought provoking talk.

4. Apologies

There were 23 members present with 11 apologies.

5. Minutes of the last Deanery Synod

The minutes were accepted as a correct record: proposed by Dr JS Broxton, seconded by Dr Marian Corms.

6. Matters arising

None

7. Area Dean's and other Announcements

- Rev'd Geoff Turner is moving this month to become Team Rector of Worsley.
- Rev'd Chris Fallone is moving to become Mission Priest at Christ Church in Collyhurst, Manchester
- Seven congregations now need outside clergy support every week and this is a foretaste of the future scenario where the number of stipendiary priests will drop from 12 to 9. "Reality is beginning to bite".
- Mr John Geary is due to be ordained as an OLM in July 2008.
- Mrs Pauline Jones has been accepted for OLM training and will be unable to continue as Lay Chair. In September 2008, a new Lay Chair will need to be appointed.
- In response to a question from Mr George Etugo concerning the main reason for the reduction in clergy, IB replied that the main reason was the significant reduction in people coming into the stipendiary ministry. He made the point that only seven of the twenty two new Deacons to be ordained at the end of June are stipendiary and therefore available to become full time parish clergy at the end of their curacies

8. Correspondence

Email received from Archdeacon of Bolton announcing a seminar on "Lead and church roofs" on 30th June at 7:30pm at Church House

9. Financial Report

Mr George Etugo reported that he had been unable to obtain the figures for the balance in the Yorkshire Bank as the signatories on the Deanery account had not yet been changed. IB apologised for the fact that the names of those authorised to sign cheques had not yet been registered with the bank and undertook to ensure signatories were changed as soon as Pauline Jones returned from holiday.

Halifax : £173.06p

10. Deanery Newsletter

IB reminded everyone that the Synod had approved a Deanery newsletter in the autumn. It had however become clear that if this were to get off the ground it required someone to receive information from parishes to put in the newsletter and to arrange for it to be printed. The initial target would be 3 issues per year and it was suggested that each Deanery Synod could provide the deadline date for the next issue. IB asked for volunteers to act as Parish Coordinators who would provide the input for that parish. Volunteers were forthcoming from most parishes and Mrs Alison Bamford offered to collate the information from each of these Parish representatives and issue the newsletter at the target intervals.

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John Pye offered to circulate news by email to all members on those occasions and also post the information on the Deanery website, where the event would be too late for the forthcoming newsletter.

11. AOB

▪ Dave Godfrey Youth Events

Dr Jackie Broxton made a brief presentation about Dave Godfrey Youth Events. She commended these to Synod and to the Deanery and suggested that a group of churches might join to set up one of these events since they are quite expensive. She wondered if something could be organised at the Deanery level to make holding them viable from a cost and participatory viewpoint. Comprehensive handouts giving full details of each type of event and their costs were kindly provided and circulated at the end of the meeting.

▪ Diocesan Synod

A request was made that the agenda for the Diocesan Synod be made available at the Deanery Synod which precedes it, to allow opportunity for discussion on the topics on the agenda and that a report of the preceding Diocesan Synod be reported at each Deanery Synod.

A vacancy for a Lay representative to the Diocesan Synod was declared. When nominations were sought for the vacancy, a point of order was raised that votes could not be taken under Any Other Business, as agenda items requiring a vote had to be properly notified beforehand. This was not accepted by IB and the election took place.

Mrs Pat Barr was nominated by Mr Frank Platt and seconded by Mrs Allison Bamford and in the event of no other nominations was duly elected.

12. Date of forthcoming meetings/events summary

▪ Deanery Events

2008	Time	Event: Topic	Venue
June			
23rd		Diocesan Synod	The Cathedral
30th	7:30pm	Lead & Church Roofs Seminar	Church House
September			
Saturday 13th	10am - 3pm	Mission Weekend Training event	M/c Cathedral
Thursday	7:30pm	Standing Committee	St Martin's Vicarage
October			
7 th to 13th		Pilgrimage to Rome	The Vatican!
Tuesday 14 th	7:00pm	Deanery Synod	All Souls, Heywood
2009			
March			
Wednesday 4 th	7:00pm	Deanery Synod	St Mary, Birch
June			
Thursday 11 th	7:00pm	Deanery Synod	The Old Grammar School, Middleton

13. Closing Prayers

IB closed the meeting with the grace at 9:05pm.