

THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org

Minutes of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod

Tuesday 14th October at All Souls, Heywood

1. Opening Prayers

Rev'd Ian Butterworth (IB), opened the meeting with prayers for guidance.

2. Apologies

There were 24 members present with 6 apologies for absence

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and correct record, having been proposed by Frank Platt and seconded by Mrs Alison Bamford.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Area Dean's Announcements

- Rev'd Chris Fallone will be inducted at Christ Church, Collyhurst on Nov 20th at 2:30pm.
- John Geary from St Margaret's Heywood was ordained deacon in July 2008. He will serve as an OLM at St Margaret's.
- Mrs Pauline Jones has agreed to remain as the Lay Chair for the present.
- While it is appreciated that Parishes are finding it difficult to meet the Parish Share, especially so in the current economic climate, it is imperative that every effort is made to pay the share since this has direct impact on clergy stipends. IB encouraged all parishes to try to meet their parish share.
- The Lay Assistants procedure is to change. There will no longer be the need for an interview with the Archdeaconry Readers' Chaplain. Instead, PCC and parish priest's recommendations will be sufficient for a person to go forward. There will be an evening 'do' to share fellowship in 2009, but a date has not yet been set.
- The Bishop has indicated that Lay Readers are not allowed to baptise. This is not an issue in this Deanery but has been in others.
- **Correspondence**
- **Street Pastors**
Information had been received from Carl Roach of Inspire Middleton about the developing Street Pastors scheme to invite volunteers to build a team of 12 volunteers to work as Street Pastors. Training is necessary and would be given.

▪ HOST

An email from Margaret Stevens of the charity HOST had been received asking for hospitable volunteers to share Christmas with an international student who otherwise would be alone.

6. Financial Report

No financial report was presented. Annual subs are now due.

7. Report on Whalley Abbey meeting

Mrs Pauline Jones reported back on her observations of the recent clergy meeting at Whalley Abbey. It was felt to be a productive time together, with various concerns and joys shared. However, the event has been paid for by the clergy for the past 4 years, with only a part able to be reclaimed in training, and there was a reluctance even to do that as it uses up the training budget. It was also suggested that future events be opened to OLMs.

A request was made for PCCs to consider supporting the clergy in this work by donating £60/annum for this purpose.

Action: IB to write to PCCs about this and to ask for annual subscriptions to be paid.

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8. Deanery Newsletter

Thanks were expressed for the latest and most excellent edition of the Deanery newsletter.

9. Lay Vacancy on Diocesan Synod

There is a lay vacancy on Diocesan Synod. Nominations are being sought

Action: All to seek suitable nominees

10. Main Item: "WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR"?

IB gave a presentation which gave an update on where we are in terms of sharing the ministry among congregations.

He summarised the current clergy position and probable future complement of priests and distribution of roles across the Deanery, adding that moves were afoot for the addition of the St George, Heap Bridge and St Aiden, Sudden parishes to the Deanery.

He urged a common sense of purpose and not to despair, but to view the changes as a great opportunity. Both clergy and congregations would need to let go of previously held independencies, and learn to work together by offering to share resources, gifts and skills and not be afraid to ask for help.

Following some group discussion, responses were aired in a plenary session.

- Many concerns were expressed at the overall lack of progress, as it appeared that no tangible progress was being made.
- Canon Nick Feist reported that the Middleton Group were already working on the future for this part of the Deanery.
- Feedback from St Gabriel's was that the proposed groupings looked reasonable
- In future deliberations, the way OLMs and Readers would operate should be mapped into the overall deployment model as a stipendiary-clergy-only deployment model was not adequate to obtain the whole resource picture.
- Roles and job descriptions would need to be formally changed to allow resources to be used at the Deanery level and not just be parish-bound resources.
- Resources need to be better quantified and then shared across parishes

11. AOB

▪ Dave Godfrey Youth Events

Nicola Broxton, kindly joined us at the end of the meeting, to give a brief overview her experiences in Middleton Parish School of a Dave Godfrey event that was held there in the past to give a view of the positive impact the event had on the children and the inspiration he had brought to them.

12. Date of forthcoming meetings/events summary

2009			
March			
Wednesday 4 th	7:00pm	Deanery Synod	St Mary, Birch
Saturday 21 st		Quiet morning	All Saints, Rhodes
SATURDAY 4TH	9:30am	Pastoral Committee Meeting	St Martin, Castleton
APRIL			
This date has been changed at the request of the Archdeacon			
June			
Thursday 11 th	7:00pm	Deanery Synod	The Old Grammar School, Middleton

13. Close

The meeting closed with Compline and finished at 9:30pm.