

THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org

Minutes of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod

15th March 2010 at St Martin's Castleton

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting opened at 7:30pm with prayers.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true and correct record. Proposed by Mrs Allison Bamford and seconded by Rev'd Maureen Thorpe.

3. Matters arising

The Deanery website provision was unchanged. It was still being sponsored externally.

4. Area Dean's Announcements

- The next meeting would be an informal gathering at The Old Grammar School in Middleton.

5. Update of the Deanery Pastoral Plan

6. Diocesan Synod Report

The report had been previously circulated. No further points were raised.

7. Financial Report

Mr George Etugo reported that the current funds were as follows:-

- Yorkshire Bank £142.46p
- Halifax £174.61p

The Area Dean then reflected that he felt that the Deanery Synod appears to be a 'spare part' as a result of the work from the Deanery Pastoral Committee (DPC). It now seemed to have a lack of purpose and direction. He proposed that the DPC should be suspended and in its place two groups be formed, one for Middleton Group and the other for the Heywood Group of churches, to 'network and share' business pertinent to their particular interests in its place. Space and time would be needed for this to happen.

He further reflected that the Deanery Synod has no legislative power but was a medium through which topics could be discussed and feedback given to Diocesan Synod through its representatives from the Deanery Synod.

Tea & Coffee was then served.

8. Date of forthcoming meetings/events summary

2010			
June			
Tuesday 29th	7:30pm	Deanery Synod	The Old Grammar School, Middleton
October			
Wednesday 28th	7:00pm	Deanery Synod	St Margaret, Heywood

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9. Main Topic : "Love Thy Neighbour" by Mrs Allison Bamford

Allison opened by introducing herself and went on to pose the question:

"Do we really engage with fellow members of our congregations?"

She challenged the members with follow-up questions, illustrated with large photographs:

- "Why do we seem find it difficult when we find it easy in other circumstances".
- "How do we get to know people?"
- "How do companies do it?"
- "How do our churches do it?"
- "Do we engage with people by sharing in tasks and worship?"
- "How do we greet people?"
- "How would we feel if we were not welcomed when visiting a church?"
- Why do we go to church?"

Suggestions for the opportunities to engage with people were proposed in response:

- Whilst coffee is served
- Handing over a Church magazine
- Asking them to fill in a Visitor Book entry
- Whilst Sharing the Peace
- Having a 'Spotter' for new people in the congregation with the rider that body language should be respected should that person wish to be private and contemplative. Any approach should be quiet and empathetic.
- Ask people to become involved in worship and other duties
- Provide a 'Welcome Pack'
- Help 'at the door' alongside the vicar who can often become engaged with one member and miss others as the leave
- Provide a weekly newssheet

10. AOB

There was no other business

11. Close

The Area Dean closed the meeting with thanks to the Treasurer, the Secretary and the Lay Chair for their continued contribution to Deanery Synod meetings.

The meeting closed with Compline at 9:07pm.