

THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org

Minutes of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod

Monday 23rd Sept 2007 at St Martin, Castleton

1. Opening Prayers

The Lay Chair, Mrs Pauline Jones, opened the meeting, summarising the progress made since the previous meeting and then continued with prayers. These were followed by a period of quiet reflection whilst music was played to set the mood of praise and prayerfulness to discern God's will and his will for us.

2. Apologies

There were 31 members present with 9 apologies

3. Minutes of the last Deanery Synod

Accepted as a correct record

4. Matters arising

None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Area Dean's Announcements

- Rev'd Andy Pell retired on 31st August. Rhodes, Bowlee & Birch now without a priest. There is no intention to replace him. The three churches will continue to be guided and supported by clergy from elsewhere in the Deanery as they have been of late.
- Bishop Michael's farewell, before he takes up his new post in Cyprus, will be held in M/C Cathedral on 4th Nov at 3:00pm. All are invited to the Eucharist Service and to stay for drinks afterwards. The AD hoped that he spoke for many in saying that while delighted for Bishop Michael was sorry that we would be losing an excellent Bishop. The new job was an excellent fit for his skills and learning.
- AD wondered if it worth holding local common interest group meetings, such as between Wardens, Treasurers etc, locally rather than having to travel to Diocesan events.
- Julie Fuller from St Martin's was introduced by the AD as a resource person who is willing to come to any church and talk with them about Children's Work. She has recently completed the Diocesan Certificate in Children's Work.
- On holiday in the summer the AD had seen a Deanery Newsletter in Wales, with the message at the top "God knows what's happening in your church but no one else will unless you tell them!" and suggested that a Deanery newsletter might be a worthwhile venture for this Deanery. The AD volunteered to be the editor initially and would aim for the first issue in Spring 2008. He asked all churches to contribute and also add the information contained within it into Parish Magazines. It would help to advertise their events. There would be a paper copy circulated as well as the usual electronic version. To start the event-sharing ball rolling parishes were asked to indicate their forthcoming events. (These are listed at the end of the minutes. Ed.)

Coffee Break

7. MAIN ITEM: "What do we need a vicar for?"

The AD introduced the item by reminding members that, given the wider responsibilities which will be laid on full time stipendiary clergy in the future, congregations have to begin to reflect on how they can take up some of the work which at present is loaded on to the vicar. The Standing Committee and the Deanery Pastoral Committee were both concerned

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that a process should begin through which congregations might identify the areas of parish life for which a priest was required and those for which lay people could take responsibility. To that end Synod was invited to split into inter parish groups to discuss the question 'What do we really need a vicar for?' The purpose of the exercise was not to come to a conclusion tonight, but to begin the thinking process and to take thoughts and ideas back to PCCs, inviting them to do the same thinking. The members then broke into five small groups to discuss the question for 15 minutes. The groups then presented their findings in a round-robin fashion

The responses were that we need priests for

- Pastoral care
- Celebrating the Eucharist and discharging legal responsibilities: Baptism and Marriage
- Leadership
- Public face of parish -> the figurehead
- To oversee who does what and when
- Knowledge and teaching
- To be carer of souls in the parish
- Catalyst for action and inspiration within laity to develop talents
- 'Buck' catcher
- To take responsibility for schools.
- Liaising with Bishops

Comments from the floor

- "All issues raised could be put under the heading of leadership."
- "Some of above could be achieved by lay people E.g. inspiration and development of talents."
- "It's all about oversight, encouragement and teaching."
- "Vicar can be seen as the 'Managing Director', the difference being that the 'employees' aren't forced to be a member of the firm."
- "Vicars need to 'let go'."
- "Difficulties arise during the day, if no retired people are available to 'field' calls for any 'non-vicar' issues."
- "Without leadership you get problems."
- As Rhodes is the first parish to experience the lack of a vicar since the discussions began they were asked what they had missed since Andy had left. The answer was "very little" as they had had help with official roles from other parishes and had been doing the rest themselves and it was working out quite well.
- "We are currently embedded in parochialism and we need to find ways of working together across more than 1 church."
- "PCCs can ask the vicar to stand down as chairman or alternate chairmanship with a vice-chairman."
- "There is a lot of power focussed on certain roles and there is a need to divest this in other people to leave the vicar free to do other roles!"
- "The role of chairman gives the vicar the opportunity to lead and steer and is therefore a valuable role for the vicar to retain!"
- IB was asked how he felt about 'letting go'. He responded that it was difficult at a lot of levels. Not being as 'hands-on' brought on feeling of guilt. However, many other responsibilities did mean he didn't have the time to do what he would really like to do. Releasing some of those would help in that regard.

8. Financial Report

A written summary, as of 24 Sep 2007, was submitted, as follows:

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| ▪ Yorkshire bank | £221.66p |
| ▪ Halifax | £170.46 |

A number of parishes have still to contribute £20 to the running costs of the Deanery.

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9. Date of forthcoming meetings/events

▪ Parish Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Event</i>
EVERY SATURDAY	6:00pm–7:30pm 7:45pm–9:00pm	Smalley Hall, Castleton	LAUNCH YOUTH MINISTRY Fusion for ages up to 14 Ignite for 14+
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY	From 9 th Oct 7:15 – 8:30	Old Grammar School	Bible Study : DRENCH 11 to 14
13 th Oct	CANCELLED as it clashes with the following event	ST Margaret's	Quiet Morning
13 th Oct	9:30am-1:30pm 7:30pm-9:00pm	St. Leonard's Old Grammar School In Church	Renewal Day Quiet Morning, finishing with a 'Bring and Share lunch' at 1:00pm Evening of Worship and Healing Ministry led by Martin Cavender from Resource (who led Springboard in 2001) Contact: 0161 643 2693 www.stleonards@ntlworld.org.uk
13 th Oct	7:00pm	St Thomas, Bowlee	The Nightingale Singers A concert of popular music and singing by current and ex-members of the Halle Choir. Tickets £5 incl wine Contact: 0161 643 6000 www.stthomasbowlee.org.uk
14 th Oct	6:00pm	St Martin's	Healing Service
1st Nov	7:30pm	All Saints & Martyrs	All Saints Day Service With Canon Robin Gamble + buffet
16 th Nov	7:00pm & 7:45pm	St Margaret's	Eucharist Potato Pie Supper & Quiz
18 th Nov	6:00pm	St Martin's	Celtic Worship
3 rd Dec	6:30pm	St Luke's	G.M. Police Carol Service

▪ Deanery Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event: Topic</i>	<i>Venue</i>
2007			
4 th Nov	3:00pm		M/C Cathedral
?? December (TBA)		Rescheduled Pastoral Committee Quiet Morning	St Margaret's
2008			
Mon 19 th Feb	7:30pm	Training event	M/c Cathedral

10. Closing Prayers

The meeting closed with a moment of prayer and a blessing at 9:10pm.