

THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

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Minutes of the meeting of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod held on Wednesday, 10th November at All Saints and Martyrs, Langley

Canon Nick Feist opened the meeting with prayers.

1. Present:

There were 26 members present and Canon Nick Feist chaired the meeting. There was a belated greeting at the end of the meeting to welcome a new member of the Deanery Synod, Miss Victoria Lavis from St John, Thornham.

2. Apologies

There were 17 apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the last meetings

Minutes of the meeting on June 14th and of the Special Deanery meeting on June 26th were accepted as true and correct records.

4. Matters arising

Redeployment of Clergy

Rev'd Andrew Ballard had met with the Deanery Pastoral Committee to further discuss the issues and collect information. It was agreed that the Deanery should produce a Strategy document based on the guidelines previously circulated. Incumbents were to have an overnight stay to reflect on possibilities to develop the strategy. The Deanery had not been told of any reduction in numbers although the Diocese plan was to reduce the number of clergy by 23 by 2006 and a further unspecified number by 2010.

5. Election of Officers

- Board for Church & Society
No nominations were forthcoming.
Rev'd Chris Fallone agreed to produce a profile of the work involved.
- USPG/CMS
Mrs Pam Rudd volunteered to be the Deanery representative
- Governor Bury Church of England High School
Bury Church of England Governing body had requested that the current holder of the post (Mr John Pye) be permitted to continue in the post until Aug 2006 when the new levels of representation of 20 (currently 21) come into force.
Rev'd Alan Broxton proposed and Rev'd Philip Miller seconded that Mr John Pye be re-elected for that period. The motion was carried unanimously.
- Lay Chair and Diocesan Synod Rep
There would need to be an election at the next Deanery Synod to elect a new Lay Chair as this was Marcia's last meeting.

6. Financial Report

The report was presented later in the meeting due to the late arrival of Mr George Etugo.

As of 10th Nov 2004, the following balances are held

Yorkshire Bank	£191.92p
Halifax Savings Account	£242.56p

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

8. Area Dean's Announcements

- Rev'd Andrew Young is to join the Eccles Team Ministry at St Paul, Monton. Nick thanked him on behalf of the whole Synod for all his valuable work in the Heywood Team and our prayers and best wishes went with him in his new ministry.
- Leslie Reading (NSM) from the Eccles Team is to become Priest-in-Charge at St James, Heywood.

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- Rev'd Lee Longdon, a former Professor of Music at Queen's College, Belfast and former chorister at M/c Cathedral, is to become the new Curate at All Saints and Martyrs, Langley.
- John Geary has been accepted to become OLM at St Margaret', Heywood. John reported that there would be two meetings this year of the Interfaith Group. The first would be held on 12th Jan at 6:30pm at St Gabriels, Sedgeley Park, Prestwich. He requested that an item be put on the agenda of the next Deanery Synod.
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9. Written Reports from other Boards/Committees:

a) Board of Finance – Mr George Etugo

The report was deferred as George had not yet arrived.

b) Youth Workers Evening

Chris Fallone presented this item in the absence of Rev'd Gordon Joyce.

Following the original Youth Workers' meeting at St Martin, Castleton, Chris explained how the 'IGNITE' Project had been initiated. 'IGNITE' is an 11+ age group provision and had now been going 6 or 7 months. St John, Thornham had joined forces with Firwood, a Free Church in Chadderton, who had initiated the project and to which St Leonard, Middleton are now contributing. There have already been a series of events held at Smalley Hall on a Saturday night. There is always a 'God Slot' component during the evening. It is part of the Evangelistic Strategy and links in with the Space Event at the Apollo, Celebration Services and Soul Survivor. There is an open invitation to bring along any group of young people from any other church. (They must be accompanied, they cannot be 'sent'). Funding has been obtained and a Bank Account set up. Currently, they are enjoying attendances of 50 young people and growing. Volunteers are requested to turn up and help or to offer transport, which is a major problem. Contact Caroline or Chris Fallone.

There is also a Youth Alpha Group called 'Drench', which currently has a membership of around 30/40 and is held in the Old Grammar School every two weeks on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm.

10. Personal Data and Deanery Website

Mr John Pye gave an update on the website that was now 'live'. Forms were circulated prior to the meeting as confirmation of correctness of personal details of each member and requesting each member to indicate their wishes as to the level of privacy which could be displayed on the website. This was to comply with Data Protection legislation.

The offer of assistance to any church who wished to set up a website was again extended and contributions to the Deanery Website were always welcome.

11. New Parish Share

There would be a meeting to discuss the new Parish Share on 29th Nov 2004 at 7.00 pm at St Martin, Castleton. It would be an open meeting but Incumbents, Treasurers and Wardens were particularly invited. The new figures, following the appeals, would then be available from the Diocese. The Standing Committee had met and there had also been a meeting with Nigel Spraggins to discuss possible re-apportionment scenarios of the Diocesan published figures to moderate any increase or decreases to more realistic and attainable levels to try to maximise the total Deanery Share that could be achieved.

Mr George Yates, our current Budget Secretary, had indicated that he wished to step down as he was having difficulty in properly fulfilling the role due to work commitments. A new Budget Secretary would need to be appointed at the next Deanery Synod.

12. Main Item: "PLAN FOR GROWTH" – by Robin Gamble

This item was a follow-up from the Special Synod meeting in the Old Grammar School.

The booklet 'Plan for Growth' was presented by Rev'd Chris Fallone and Rev'd Andrew Young. The hope was that every church would take a copy and use it to further their mission and growth. There was no obligation; it was an invitation and a mechanism to assist in the process.

