

Heywood & Middleton Deanery

Minutes of meeting of the Deanery Synod held on 2nd February 2004 at St Gabriel, Middleton Junction.

Prayers

The Area Dean opened the meeting with prayers

Present

There were 35 members present with 12 apologies for absence.

Election of Lay Secretary

There were no nominations for Lay Secretary. The Area Dean requested that further thoughts and prayer should be given. He indicated that the position could be filled by a person who is not necessarily a member of the Deanery Synod. John Pye volunteered to be the Minute Secretary for the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 13th Oct 2003 at St John, Thornham, were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

Item6: Clergy Retreat: Rev'd Ian Butterworth reported no progress.

Financial Report

George Etugo reported the following balances:

Halifax Current Account	(Interest)	£442.56p	(£2.46p)
Yorkshire Cheque Account	(Interest)		(£0.03p)
		£48.21p	

Correspondence

None

Area Dean's Announcements

✍ Mrs Brenda Tomlinson

The Area Dean was sad to report the sudden death of Brenda, our Mission Secretary. The funeral had been held at St John, Thornham. The Area Dean said and had been his privilege to conduct the service, which was a celebration of true Christian Discipleship. He thanked God for her service to the Church, the Deanery and the Diocese. He paid tribute to her generous gift of hospitality, especially to the Chinese community; and said in summary, hers was a remarkable ministry.

✍ Rev'd Chris Falone

Chris was making good progress and was expected to be able to return to work at the end of March 2004.

✍ St John's Primary School, Thornham

The vote at the Committee meeting in Rochdale Town Hall was divided, which now means the decision will be left to the adjudicator, who is able to call further public meeting, if desired.

✍ Treasurers and Church Wardens

There is to be a meeting at St Aiden, Sudden next Wednesday to discuss income surveys w.r.t. Parish Share.

✍ Lost Property

A picture found after the last Deanery Synod at St John, Thornham was still unclaimed. The picture is of St John's in the snow and has an inscription Liz, Alan & Ellie.

✍ **Departures**

Stuart and Margaret Evason had now left and there was a vacancy at St James, Heywood.

Rev'd Julia Bebbington leaves on Low Sunday, 18th April 2004 to become incumbent at St Peter, Cowgate, Newcastle. The Area Dean passed on his best wishes as she leaves for her new post.

The Area Dean wished the Synod to be aware that the number of available clergy was now declining and Rev'd Andrew Young was now the sole stipendiary Curate in the Deanery.

Written Reports

- ✍ Board of Finance: None
- ✍ Ministry and Society: papers had been received. Julia's leaving means that there is now a vacancy on this Board. Julia encouraged people to come forward to serve, either Clerical or Lay. Meetings are held in Church House about 3 times per year.
- ✍ USPG/CMS: Brenda's death meant that there was now a vacancy on this Board.

Special Item: "Come with Marcus" videos

Ross Code of Code Media Ltd had kindly agreed to attend the Deanery Synod to make a presentation on the Story Keeper series of videos. A short sample was shown for the benefit of the Synod members to illustrate the type and style of the video content. Videos are targeted at the 6 year old age group as they are the most likely to 'repeat watch' and thus get 'the message' home. The objective is to bring the stories and parables of the Bible to areas and people it would not normally reach, in a format which is appealing and normal to the target age group. Resource packs are now available, containing 4 different videos, for use in Holiday Clubs and Key Stage 1&2 in schools. Sponsorship is the mechanism through which the current promotional drive is focussed. Initial sponsorship from many organisations and individuals has provided £15K, allowing 5,000 video to be distributed into schools at no cost to the pupils. Non-church affiliated schools have ('surprisingly') been the most receptive to the videos and supportive of the venture. Feedback suggests that links between schools and church have been considerably strengthened by this initiative. In one example quoted, in Barrow, 11 churches took part in a project in which 1150 children received free copies and Holiday Clubs organised were four times oversubscribed.

A handbook has been produced, which is tied to the episodes and can either be used in conjunction with the video or as a stand-alone booklet, then acting as a Bible Study.

Sponsorship mechanism

Flyers are distributed on Sundays in churches requesting donations. £17.50 is requested from 10 people to allow 50 videos to be purchased.

Costs:

1 video = £4.00 each;
50+ = £3.50 each;
200+ = £3.00 each (Production cost price)

The Area Dean, on behalf of the Synod, thanked Ross for coming and for the preparing the presentation.

“ Faith to Faith” Gospel Project:

John Geary spoke about the initiative to promote inter-faith communication. A chart showing a census for 2001 of the different faith populations within the Diocese was circulated. At the last meeting, conducted by Martin Miller, 22 Deaneries had been represented; Rochdale, Salford and Oldham were not. A number of key documents were being prepared on Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. Bishop David would speak to the Synod about the project if invited to do so.

Deanery Web Site

John Pye presented to Synod members some idea of what the Deanery Web Site could look like and demonstrated a range of web pages of content to stimulate thought on what the final site content should be. John asked members if they would kindly indicate their interest in sharing the available Deanery web space and e-mail addresses to create a website for their own churches and if they would like help in doing so. (A number of representatives present, from the churches who do not already have websites, indicated their wish to do so during the meeting.)

Parish Share 2004

96.8% of the Parish Share of the Deanery's was achieved in 2003. Three Parishes failed to meet their share. The Diocesan average was 92%. There is to be a new scheme next year. Parish Treasurers had been informed of the new figures.

The Area Dean illustrated that £0.5M could be raised every one of the 20,500 regular church attendees in the Diocese gave an extra 50p/week. George Etugo later asked if it was possible to look at the ability of the defaulters to pay and to see if their share could be reduced. The Area Dean explained that this was already one of the factors taken into consideration when the share was initially allocated.

Diocesan Synod Report 22nd Nov 2003

The Area Dean reported that the new Parish Share formula and budget had been voted upon and had been agreed.

Special Item: “ Focus on Evangelism”

- ✍ The initial draft programme was circulated to members. The 9th May service at St Luke's was wrongly described and should be billed as an “ All Age Service”
- ✍ Bishop Nigel has agreed to attend the Ascension Day Service.
- ✍ Robin Gamble has indicated that he would be willing to give a talk to any of the Guest Services to be organised but expects that 'new' guests be brought along.
- ✍ The Area Dean will be at General Synod then on holiday during February. Rev Andrew Young will be stepping in to coordinate during this period. Andrew's e-mail address is andrew.young66@ntlworld.com

Group Discussion:

“ What do you want your church to get out of this Evangelism 'Month'? The synod broke up into small groups to exchange views and to provoke more thought and synergy.

Group Feedback:

- ✍ St Luke's requested to host the Ascension Day Service.
- ✍ St Martin's offered to host a 'Guest Service'
- ✍ St Michael's also requested a 'Guest Service' and are trying to arrange an all-age music group which involved the band and choir.
- ✍ All Saints, Rhodes are intending to hold three events: Social, Spiritual and Special: the latter being an Organ Recital.
- ✍ All Saints and Martyrs, Langley are holding:
 - a Flower Festival at the start of May,
 - a Retreat held near Chester from 22nd May until 24th May.
 - possibly, a Choir competition
 - possibly, a quiz night for youth
- ✍ St Thomas, Bowlee offered to host an evening with Steve Chalke videos to hear Steve's views on Evangelism and the practicalities of how it can be 'rolled-out' through the 'Faithworks' programme.
- ✍ St John's are organising a 'START' course prepared by Robin Gamble, which is a series of 6 videos (in the mould of a pre-Alpha course)
- ✍ Other suggestions for events were to invite Prof J Polkinghome, who is now Canon Theologian at Liverpool, to give a 'Men's Breakfast'.

"Focus on Evangelism" was generally accepted as the most appropriate title for the whole project.

AOB

- ✍ Robin Gamble is creating a Lent course for Parish use this coming Lent.
- ✍ Parishes were requested to send a copy of their Annual Accounts to George Yates, the Deanery Budget Officer for information purposes.
- ✍ There was a belated welcome to June Starky, from St James, Heywood, on her first Deanery Synod.

Closing Prayers

The Area Dean closed the meeting with prayers in memory of Brenda Tomlinson, and for Chris Falone and the churches and Deanery in their preparations for the 'Focus on Evangelism'.