

THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

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Minutes of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod

Monday 20th November 2006 at St Martin, Castleton

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began with prayers

2. Minutes of the last Deanery Synod

Accepted as a correct record

3. Matters arising

None

4. Area Dean's Announcements

- ✍ Rev'd Maureen Thorpe is to be inducted on Sat 9th Dec 2006 at 2:00pm to become the vicar of St Michael, Tonge cum Alkington
- ✍ The Bishop of Hulme has been appointed by the Archbishop of York as the Bishop of Urban Areas, as a consequence of a recent report to further the work of that report. As a result the Bishops of Bolton and Middleton have taken responsibility for all the Archdeaconries within the Diocese. The number of Archdeacons will remain the same

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Financial Report

The summary was as follows:

✍ Yorkshire bank	£221.49p
✍ Halifax	£169.45p

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

7. Election of Heywood and Middleton Deanery Foundation Governor for Bury Church of England High School

John Pye, the current holder of the post, indicated that he did not wish to stand again. No nominations were forthcoming during the meeting and it was agreed to leave the matter of the appointment in the hands of the Standing Committee.

8. Fair Trade Churches

John Geary asked in vain for someone to come forward who would be interested in promoting the initiative among the remaining 7 churches within the Deanery to become Fair Trade Churches.

9. Interfaith Update

John Geary and Julie Dixon have both attended meetings at the Temple, synagogue and a mosque on Cheetham Hill Road. The Bishop of Bolton is leading the initiative to encourage everyone to have a strategy towards Interfaith work.

John Geary the Area Dean and Rev'd Steve Williams of Prestwich are preparing a plan to promote work with other faiths. John reported that Heywood Primary has amalgamated with three other Primary schools to help promote the initiative. More information was requested concerning other faiths worshipping within the Deanery, where they meet and the location of the worship centres. A report to the Diocesan Interfaith Group is due in Jan 2008, but more information is required before consultations can begin.

A wives group, some 12 to 15 strong, of which Rev'd Carol Gully is one, hold meetings in Bury.

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John commented that 50% of mosques do not admit women.

Margaret Shackleton reported that a group of Methodists and Roman Catholics went to a church in Bolton and shared in worship with a group of Pakistani Christians.

It was reported that the biggest issue was seen to be the bad press received by Muslims.

The 2001 census gave figures for the breakdown of each faith within the Deanery.

Any information about the work of different faiths and their worship centres would be gratefully received by John Geary.

10. MAIN ITEM Presentation of Deanery Pastoral Committee report

The Area Dean (AD) explained that this Synod was not a meeting to revise the report, but was convened to present the report to the Synod membership.

The AD highlighted various aspects of the report and the process undergone as follows: -

- ✍ The various Deanery Pastoral Committee (DPC) meetings had been helpful and we now knew a lot more about each other and each church's issues.
- ✍ Attention was brought to the various comments made within the report concerning the lack of St Gabriel's contribution during the consultation process
- ✍ The Appendix was summarised bringing attention to the trigger levels, population attendance and Parish Share
- ✍ He reminded the meeting that we had chosen the term 'churches at risk' rather than 'viable/non-viable'.
- ✍ The various observations were run through

The AD reported that the potential reduction of stipendiary clergy from 12 to 9 would again come under review as the result of new information recently received concerning recent change of circumstances of St Aiden, Sudden.

Whole Deanery Proposals

Various new initiatives were reported. The overall thrust is to work together as a Deanery.

✍ **'God Friday'**

There is a plan to hold an Evangelistic Service on Good Friday.

A CD ROM had been created as a resource pack, which would cost £50. The cost should not be seen as a 'stopper' and some accommodation would also be made for teams of churches to share a pack. Parishes would need to register an interest in the pack with either Rev'd Chris Falone or Simon Ambrose @ Deansgate.

A Training event was planned on Mon 19th Feb @ 7:30pm in the Cathedral.

✍ **'START'**

Start is an introductory Outreach Course. It is seen as a pre-Alpha course.

It is a 6 week course to explore spirituality. It is aimed for use in the home and is available on DVD or VHS Tape. It has been used at St John's and was very well received to the extent that people wished to move on with the Alpha and Emmaus courses. The courses were available from CPAS or Wesley Owen. (Website is www.start-cpas.org.uk/index.htm; phone 01926 458400. Cost is £39.95 (Ed.))

✍ **Mission Weekends**

Mission weekends, sharing with ecumenical partners, have been planned for early autumn in 2007.

✍ **Shared Ministry Growth – 'Living in the Dash'**

Rev'd Ian Butterworth (IB) introduced a new 3 session course, 'Living in the Dash', to connect people's faith with everyday living. He explained that the course helps people identify their God-given passions, skills and gifts and use them in their everyday lives. The idea for the course came from Michael Harvey, a lay member of St Thomas Church, Delph in the Saddleworth Team. It had already been successfully trialled in various parishes.

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IB had already run the course in Eccles (average age 70!). He said that it made people realise they do have something to give. He suggested that run across a group of churches it could be useful as a vehicle to draw people together.

(www.manchester.anglican.org/News/news.asp?ID=336 (Ed.))

✂ **Clergy Group Meetings**

Benefits of sharing time together during the whole process had helped everyone to better understand each other.

Specific Issues

Other issues were highlighted:

✂ **Heywood 'Group'**

The proposal for a ½ time assignment to work with schools would put even greater strain on the available clergy resources within the 'Group'.

Various issues with church buildings were discussed.

In summary, future assessment would still be required and the issues were unresolved to date

✂ **Administrative Tasks**

These tasks would need to be supported by other than the clergy.

Comments from the floor

A Question and Answer Session then followed through which clarification was sought to the issues raised by the proposed changes.

Points clarified were that: -

- ✂ There would be no more meetings until 23rd Jan when the Deanery's proposal (30 min slot) would be presented to the Dio. PC. Further advice would then be expected which would then be reviewed by the DPC. At this point any proposed boundary changes could begin to move forward but legal issues may mean the process would take some time.
- ✂ Rev'd Geoff Turner was to be involved in talks were to take place concerning the future of the church at Heap Bridge.
- ✂ Independent of the reflections of the Dio PC, much work was needed to work at cross-fertilization of ideas across parishes
- ✂ All the documents had been circulated to St Gabriels but no response to them had yet been received.
- ✂ The late breaking news of a congregation proposed move for St Aiden's to join the Deanery had not been taken into account within the current proposals and if it came to fruition then at least 10 clergy, not 9, would need to be considered the new minimum level to support the proposal.
- ✂ The new informal functional structure had not yet been discussed whilst the existing legal structure was retained. It was difficult to sub-divide formally because of the various sizes of churches/ congregations and clergy.
- ✂ There were no plans yet to close any churches, the process had served to identify those 'at risk'. However, the DioPC may try to force the issue. Churches 'at risk' had been asked to put an action plan for their future survival and growth.
- ✂ There was a clear opportunity to let God call people into ministry in all its guises
- ✂ It was important that no service is dependent on the clergy but should always be supported by lay people
- ✂ Most PCCs had already discussed the report and fed back comments to the DPC reps, others should do so by Dec4th.
- ✂ Fewer clergy would not mean a reduction in Parish Share as the existing Parish Share allocation was already below actual costs.

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- ✍ Clergy numbers would drop through retirement of clergy, not through any redundancy measures. That would help meet budgeted levels.
- ✍ Bishops were not part of the Diocesan budget

Progress reported by churches

Holy Trinity, Parkfield reported that the consultation process had already helped to energise their efforts to help the church survive. They had already set targets and were working together to achieve them.

11. Date of forthcoming meetings/events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event: Topic</i>	<i>Venue</i>
T.B.A			

12. Closing Prayers

The meeting closed with prayers by IB at 9:20pm