

# THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

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## Minutes of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod

on

Monday, 27th June 2005 at St Margaret, Heywood

### 1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began at 7:45 with prayers.

Apologies were expressed by Nick for the delayed agenda and minutes.

### 2. Apologies

There were 29 members present and 13 apologies for absence.

### 3. Election of Lay Chair

The clergy adjourned whilst the Lay Chair was elected. Mrs Pauline Jones was proposed by Mrs Hester Gallagher and seconded by Mr David Peace. In the event of no other nominations, Mrs Pauline Jones was duly elected.

### 4. Minutes of the last Deanery Synod

Minutes of the Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005 meeting were accepted as a correct record

### 5. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

### 6. Election of Deanery Officers

The following Deanery Officers were duly elected, each being nominated by Mr David Peace and seconded by Mr Frank Platt:

Office	Elected
Lay Secretary	Mr John Pye
Clerical Secretary	No Nomination
Treasurer	Mr George Etugo
Budget Secretary	Mr John Pye
Board of Ministry and Society	Mrs Pam Rudd*

\* Mrs Pam Rudd was proposed. Rev'd Philip Miller to approach her to ask if she will accept the position.

The Board of Education representative is no longer a Deanery appointment as it is now a Diocesan Synod appointment. Rev'd Maureen Read was the previous holder of the post.

### 7. Election of Deanery Committee Members

The following Deanery Committee members were duly elected.

Committee	Clergy	Lay
Standing Committee	Rev'd Geoff Turner	Mrs Sylvia Thompson
Pastoral Committee	Rev'd Geoff Turner Rev'd Philip Miller Rev'd Ian Butterworth** Rev'd Chris Fallone	Mrs Sylvia Thompson Mr Robert Lundy Mr Frank Platt Mr Lee Seville

The Standing Committee Members were nominated by Mr Eric Sharples and seconded by Mr David Clegg.

# THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

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The Pastoral Committee Members were nominated by Mr David Clegg and seconded by Mr John Roebuck

\*\* Rev'd Ian Butterworth's appointment is subject to his agreement to serve.

Because of the nature of the pending business of the Pastoral Committee, whenever a particular Parish/Team was under discussion then representatives of that Parish/Team would be invited to attend the meeting. Ven Andrew Ballard also recommended on another occasion that there should also be Ecumenical representation.

## 8. Correspondence

None received

## 9. Area Dean's Announcements

- Rev'd Lee Longden, has been ordained and is now the Curate at All Saints and Martyrs, Langley.
- Rev'd Carol Gully is now the NSM at St Martin, Castleton. Carol is married to the incumbent at St Michael, Bamford
- Rev'd Leslie Reading of St James, was currently suffering from a viral illness and is in the Floyd Unit at Birch Hill Hospital. Nick asked that we hold her in our prayers.
- Rev'd Mary Dicker retired at the end of April 2005
- Rev'd Andrew Young has moved to the Eccles Team

## 10. Financial Report

George was not present and no financial report was presented.

Parishes, which have not so far responded, were reminded to send George of the requested £10 donation from each church towards Deanery running costs.

## 11. Inter-Faith update - John Geary

John gave his report, which had been postponed from the previous Deanery Synod.

He reported that the 2nd Inter-Faith meeting was held at Al-Hilal Mosque on Cheetham Hill Road on Sept 13th 2004 with Mr Salam to better understand the key features of their worship and then to witness men and boys at prayer at sundown. The meeting was attended by Martin Miller from 90 Deansgate, and the Bishop of Bolton, David Gillatt attended with about 8 Inter-Faith resource people.

The 3rd Inter-Faith meeting was held on 12th Jan. 2005 at St. Gabriel's, Prestwich, a church close to a large Jewish population. The incumbent is Rev. Steve Williams, and he will spend half of his time working on Inter Faith issues for the Diocese. The speaker for the evening was Dr. Irene Lancaster, who is a renowned commentator on Jewish/ Christian affairs, and works at the Centre for Jewish Studies in the University of Manchester. She is author of 'Deconstructing the Bible - a study of the work of Abraham ibn Ezra'. The talk covered tension in Israel/Palestine, anti-Semitism and the spread of neo-Nazis influence in Britain and Europe (as emphasised later in the year by the desecration of a Jewish Cemetery in Salford).

### Next Inter-Faith meeting

St. John's C of E Primary School in Longsight, South Manchester, which has a 95% Muslim intake. It will begin at 9.30am on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2005 and there will be an opportunity to visit the Jain Temple nearby.

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[www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org](http://www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org)

## 12. Written Reports from other Boards/Committees:

### a) Board of Finance – Mr G. Etugo

None submitted

### b) Board of Ministry and Society – Mrs Pam Rudd

None submitted

### c) Pastoral Committee – Canon Nick Feist

There was a small attendance at the last meeting. The pressures on the Heywood Ministry were reflected upon, exacerbated by Leslie's current illness. The issue of Clergy Deployment was also touched upon.

### d) Diocesan Synod Report – TBA

Andy Pell gave a report on the 103<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Diocesan Synod.

Topics included:

- **Clergy Deployment**

The report was presented and is now available

- **Deanery Pastoral Committee.**

It is now mandated that every Deanery appoints a Pastoral Committee by Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 with a membership and remit as set out in the paper DS103/04, and report their compliance by 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2005 to Synod.

- **Canon 26**

This was voted through.

- **Previous Meeting's proceeding**

Agreed

- **Diocesan Accounts**

Approved, as was next year's budget

Proposals by Canon Alan Cooper that:

(a) members of the Diocesan Synod should also be members of the Board of Finance

(b) Standing Order 72: that there should be more Clergy and less Laity representation

were both rejected.

The two remaining proposals:

(c) Bishop's Council implement other recommendations

(d) Diocesan Board of Finance make necessary amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association

were accepted.

### e) (February 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>) General Synod Report – Canon Nick Feist

- Mrs Parker Bowles engagement was not discussed as it did not receive the required approval from the Archbishop of Canterbury!

- Women Bishops will be discussed in the next session of Synod

The following were discussed:

- A Motion proposed by the Diocese of Ely to rescind para5 of the Canon B44, which requires the bishop to ensure C of E Holy Communion services are held on the various designated days was defeated but an amendment was accepted which left the requirements in place but allowed a non-Anglican Minister to preside if the Bishop saw fit to waive them.

# THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

[www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org](http://www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org)

- Abolition of the freehold
- Underperforming Clergy

Various other debates were held:

- Higher and further Education
- Sharing God's Planet
- Ice Cap melting! (16' puts Church House at risk)
- Reduced membership of General Synod

(A hard copy of the full report is available on request.)

Nick indicated that he had still to decide whether to stand again on General Synod.

## **13.MAIN ITEM :**

### **Clergy Deployment: Update from Ven. Andrew Ballard incl. criteria for viable parishes and church buildings**

Andrew sketched out the key principles to be applied in the following areas:

- Most effective deployment of existing Clergy
- Definition of a 'viable' Parish
- Church Buildings

He explained that Rev'd John Applegate was working on the data and doing the number crunching. John will be advising the Bishop on the best action alongside the Diocesan Pastoral Committee supported by input from Archdeacons, Area Deans and Lay Chairs. Andrew also felt that it was important that the voice of the local churches was heard.

Main question was how best to deploy the Clergy to gain maximum effectiveness in the face of falling allocations of Clergy, which will be 41 less, at 233 in 2013 than the current number of 274.

Questions which needed addressing are:

- How do we organise the current Parish System to promote growth?
- How do we organise the current Parish System to promote growth in new churches?
- How do we organise the current Parish System to release Clergy to promote mission?

The objective is not to just support the current Parish System!

Andrew indicated that we would need to put a method in place to cope with the future.

### **Mission Support Clergy**

Idea here was that a team would assist Clergy still in their traditional roles. They would help to develop the 'Minister Ministry', where stronger churches would assist the less strong.

It was important to take advantage of re-generation initiatives and inner city re-developments. Churches would be needed in new areas of growth. Redevelopments often meant churches were now in the wrong places.

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## **Church Buildings**

Andrew indicated that there were 340 church buildings within the Diocese and that in 2002 £15M was spent on buildings against £7M spent on Stipendiary Clergy. In 2003, the Bishops' Council had appointed Tim Hatton to assist in obtaining funding from British Heritage to support 'Priority Parishes' identified as such.

## **Church Viability**

Andrew reported that there were two working parties, now merged, working on what constitutes a 'viable and sustainable' parish/church.

Non-viable parishes within the Deanery would need to be identified and support would need to be withdrawn to reduce the liability on the remaining.

Parameters which external consultants would look at to help to define viability include the following:

- Desire of the congregation to grow
- Evangelistic attitude
- Attendance
- Rate of Baptism and existence of Prayer Groups
- Income
- State of the building
- Opening during the week
- Non-inward looking congregation/clergy

The process would not be rushed and there would be time for full discussion from all parties.

## **Questions raised**

Q. Who decides on number of Clergy within the Diocese?

A. The Bishop, subject to the National Sheffield Formula, and advised by the Diocesan Pastoral Committee.

Q. Do the prospective reductions in Clergy numbers take account of redundancies and retirements?

A. Yes. The vision for 2013 was a 'fitter, leaner' church with far greater Laity involvement.

Q. Is there a priority order/weighting being given to viability parameters?

A. There is to be a brainstorming of all parameters to make such decisions

Q. Will the number of Bishops be cut?

A. Bishop Nigel recognises that there are too many members of senior staff and the number of Bishops will be reduced as gaps occur.

Q. Will any Clergy be made redundant?

A. None will be made redundant. Numbers will be reduced by 'natural wastage'.

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## Comment from the floor

- Although OLMs often work well, non-availability during the working day is a problem, so alternative resources have to be considered in the make up of a local Ministry Team to get the balance/share right.

## Clergy Reflections

Questions/issues Andrew raised for the Clergy to reflect upon were:

- Are the Clergy ready to 'let go'?
- What are we doing about it pro-actively?

"We can't allow it all to happen by default. We all need to pray about the future."

## 14.A.O.B.

- John Geary starts his OLM training in September 2005
- Pauline Jones starts as a Lay Reader in September 2005
- Anyone can attend a Deanery Synod, but are not entitled to vote. Youth workers are particularly welcome to come to the next Deanery Synod to hear Andy Poole and Steve Dixon.

## 15.Date of forthcoming meetings

<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Pastoral Committee</b>	Clergy Deployment and Pastoral Reorganisation of Deanery	7:30pm Middleton Rectory
<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Special Meeting</b>	Initial Thoughts on Redeployment (incl Wardens)	7:30pm St Martin, Castleton
<b>Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Speakers: Andy Poole (Youth Officer) and Steve Dixon (Children's Officer)	7:00pm St Thomas, Bowlee

## 16.Closing Prayers

The meeting closed at 9:30pm with The Grace.