

THE DEANERY OF HEYWOOD and MIDDLETON

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Minutes of the Heywood and Middleton Deanery Synod

on

Wednesday, 2nd February at St Leonard, Middleton

1. Opening Prayers

The meeting began at 7:45 with prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

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

2. Apologies

There were 20 members present and 19 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 Mrs Anne Hayward. In the event of no other nominations, Mrs Pauline Jones was duly elected.

4. Minutes of the last Deanery Synod and the 'Special Open Meeting'

Minutes of each were accepted as a correct record

5. Matters arising

- Personal Data records

John Pye requested that those who hadn't yet returned their previously circulated forms to confirm the accuracy of their personal data held on file and to register their wishes concerning its visibility, to do so at their earliest convenience. Blank forms were provided on the evening.

- Budget Secretary

Nick asked for nominations for this post. None were forthcoming at the meeting.

- Methodist Covenant

A number of joint services were held between Anglican and Methodists within the Deanery:

- 2nd Jan St Luke's joined Trinity Methodists for a 3:0-0pm service
- Members of St Leonard's joined in a morning service at Long St Methodists
- Holy Trinity, Parkfield and Langley Methodist shared in worship

6. Financial Report — Mr G. Etugo

George reported the following:

Halifax Account £87.56

Yorkshire BS £52.29

It was unanimously agreed that, as funds were low, a donation of £10 should be requested for each church (not Parish or Team) in the Deanery.

7. Correspondence

None received

8. Area Dean's Announcements

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- Rev'd Leslie Reading is to be Licensed at St James, Heywood on Sunday 27th Feb at 2:30pm.
- Rev'd Mary Dicker is to retire at the end of April 2005
- 2004 Deanery Parish Share was 92% paid. 5 Parishes had not paid in full. The average Diocesan figure was 91%

9. Written Reports from other Boards/Committees:

a) Board of Finance - Mr G. Etugo

The Board had not met

b) USPG report - Mrs Pam Rudd

Pam circulated a report derived from information of various websites.

Some other pre-printed material had not yet arrived.

Money raised for the Tsunami appeal had been directed to the CMS, and not the DEC, so that it could be used to support churches in the affected Dioceses

The Lent Appeal, supported by a Lent Pack, would be targeted in aid of Sudan.

10. Main Item: Plan for Growth: Parish Responses -opportunity for sharing and discussion'

Nick introduced the topic by emphasising that this year was an important year in terms of developing an overall strategy in relation to the provision of Ministry and Mission through the Diocese. Following on from the Archdeacon of Bolton's visitation/presentation concerning the future deployment of clergy the Pastoral Committee had been asked to look at the options for the shape of the Deanery in future. "Plan for Growth, by Canon Robin Gamble, had been published and previously discussed at a Deanery Synod and was aimed at being a mechanism to help it all happen.

"Plan for Growth"

Nick then asked for thoughts and comments from the floor in relation to that and how each church had responded to date.

• Holy Trinity

Rev'd Adrian Gallagher said that he had recently attended a 3 day course "Leading Your Church into Growth", and had found it quite disturbing that the message being promoted was that an 'Evangelical' style of worship was the way to lead your church in the future and that traditional worship was branded as 'old-fashioned' and was not really the way forward.

• Heywood PCC

There was a firm wish to 'Go for Growth' and the PCC had set up a working party to deal with problems of building and finance.

• St Luke's

Since the provision of better disabled access to the church they had seen 10 extra people attending a disabled group on a Wednesday.

• St Martin's

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The worship Group had been helping to promote a new Family Service. A Community Group had been formed to develop ideas as a result of the Parish Audit.

- **St Michael's**

'Plan for Growth' is now a permanent PCC Agenda item. They are actively involved with Robin Gamble and are in the process of consulting with the congregation. Next steps are to involve the Youth Leaders.

- **St Leonard's**

'Plan for Growth' has been working for a while.

- **St Thomas'**

Rev'd Alan Broxton related a story of an exercise he had undertaken at Scargill, with St Leonard's and St Michael's, by way of illustration of the direction St Thomas' were taking. They were asked how they would 'Build a Church' whilst they were blindfolded. They soon realised they couldn't do it out of 'boxes' and they also couldn't do it sat round in a circle facing each other with blindfolds on. They need to turn about face and look outwards and remove their blindfolds and begin to look outwards not inwards.

Other comments from the floor came from Mr George Etugo, who suggested that we should look at the patterns of the 'Evangelical Movement' to see what it was that 'worked' for them. He also had ideas that, if not already happening, sermons could be made more interactive, more references made to bible verses, more sermons from lay people, invite preachers from 'successful' Evangelical churches.

Nick agreed that we should look at other growing churches to see what they were doing to achieve it. Nick also pointed to an article in CRUX by Bishop Nigel which identified the keystone for growth being prayer, teaching and care.

The deeper question was asked: "How do we define growth, by numbers or by actions and activities?"

Real Christmas

Nick asked for feedback from those churches who took part in the 'North West Sings' Carol Service simultaneous broadcast.

- All Saint's, Rhodes had taken the broadcast and 18 extra people had attended.
- St Leonard's had also linked to it and 140 had attended against the usual Carol Service attendance of 60.
- St John's, Thornham had also linked to the transmission and over 100 had attended.
- St Thomas' did not broadcast the transmission but held their Carol Service simultaneously. 60 had attended.

11.Date of forthcoming meetings

Standing Committee	14th April 2005 7:30 pm (NOTE NEW DATE)
Deanery Synod	27th June 2005 (NOTE: not 13th June)

12.Closing Prayers

In the event of no A.O.B., the meeting closed at 8:35pm with prayers for all the parishes affected by the Tsunami