

HEYWOOD & MIDDLETON DEANERY

www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org

DIOCESAN SYNOD MEETING 20th November 2010

The Diocesan Synod met on Saturday 20th November at Salford City Academy in Peel Green.

In his Presidential Address Bishop Nigel said that the recession would have repercussions on Diocese property values. At this time compassion is a high feature of Christian Discipleship. The Government talks of 'fairness' but in fact Christian Ministry is biased to the poor. Although rigorous cuts are being made, allowances must be made for the poor. As a church we have a duty to protect and speak up for the vulnerable. The Bishop went on to say that people can be happier as part of a network of support, proving troubles are halved and joys are doubled. Our calling as a church in the community we serve is to make sure that compassion is not cut.

Our three Goals for RUN THE RACE:

- Serve the Community
- Grow congregations
- Increase our giving

The Bishop went on to thank Archdeacon Cherry Vann for taking on the role of Diocesan Secretary until a new one is appointed at Easter.

He introduced the new Accountant to the Diocese, Mr Jez Robinson.

Bishop Nigel also said that he will be seventy in 2012 but he will do a further year to oversee the progress of the church with the issue of Women Bishops, for congregations to grow and to make every effort to encourage the C of E to be a broad church, to honour all and to betray none.

Mr Alan Cooper chaired the Meeting of the Board of Finance with a final update for this year and a projected budget for next year with revised nos.

Using the Sheffield Formula, Clergy Stipendiary posts would be 240, working towards 246 including 3 years of curates. 67% would be spent on staffing costs. This would mean a 1.5% rise in Parish Share, although there would still be a large deficit, which was a cause for concern, but it was planned to recoup this in 2011-12. This was approved by a majority vote, as also was the Apportionment of the Parish Share. Empty parsonages were being let to provide an income.

The Budget for 2011 was approved by a majority.

An article In Crux for December will address this "We are all in this together and we must support each other in the work which God calls."

We were told of a number of measures taken to respond to the Manchester Green Action Plan.

We were informed of a special Diocesan Synod Meeting on Sat 24th Sept 2011 when the only item would be on legal issues for the **Consecration of Women Bishops**. It is important that the debate at this level is as well-informed as possible.

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Each Deanery Synod is invited to hold this debate in an ordinary or special meeting and there will be a panel of well-informed speakers from both sides, to come to the Deaneries to speak.

Deanery Synod membership numbers were approved. The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land next year has 70 names already, with a capacity for 120 people, travelling in three coaches.

Maurice Smith, Diocesan Education Officer, spoke on the Structure of the Board of Education, which is changing to become more effective.

This was approved.

In his Annual Report he recommended his Schools Bishop Nigel's vision to persevere in the business of passing on the Gospel message of Faith, Hope and Love.

He quoted "Education was a conversation between generations."

He said he had worked with children, youth, chaplaincy at higher education and universities, cathedral links, support for headteachers, the opening of the new St Catherine's Academy in Bolton, and the closing of the Hesketh Fletcher CE High School in Wigan.

Challenges would be that the new academies would become a "patchwork quilt" rather than a uniform system, the future of Local Authorities was in question, financial austerity and halved capitation would be difficult, with uncertainty re qualifications and curriculum, demographic changes would affect school provision, and there are secular challenges to church schools. Many different types of school will proliferate. The Board of Education would address these issues robustly. Three church schools are applying to become academies, awaiting consent.

Susie Mapledoran, Youth Officer spoke very effectively, using a visual aids in a box of small symbols, on giving our youth every opportunity.

David Marshall, Diocesan Director of Communications received a vote of thanks from Bishop Nigel for the **new cathedral website**.

Following a questionnaire four years ago the Cathedral image is being updated and made more relevant.

The Very Reverend Rogers Govender, Dean of the Cathedral, along with Anthony O'Connor, Director of Fundraising, worked on the **Cathedral development project** launched by the Bishop in October 2010 for a new organ, lighting and heating, chorister funding, plans for new choir stalls, fabric repairs re new roof, re-ordering of the cathedral centre with the café on first floor, plus the development of Medieval Manchester. This will mean that Victoria Street will become pedestrianised and tree lined, the cathedral will have steps all round, a new footbridge over the river Irwell will link Manchester and Salford, the new Chethams School building will allow the old buildings to be opened as part of Medieval Manchester. Fundraising is increasing apace with pledges and legacies.

Lord Lieutenant Colonel Warren Smith who chairs the Manchester Cathedral Development Project said that Bishop Nigel's Pilgrimage has energized the Diocese.

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Dean Rogers Govender is working with local Manchester shops, Arndale Centre, and the City Council, carers and charities all through the community.

Prayers have been said on this site for over one thousand years.

All are invited to the Cathedral on 6th February, the anniversary of the Queen's Accession to the throne for a special service.

Bishop Chris spoke on opportunities to use people gifts across the Diocese in new plans for leadership, looking forward to 2015 and to be aware of how things are likely to be in the future.

Crucial planning next year, with priorities of mission, mutual support, prayer, discipleship, and vocations.

Vicars will have copies of the "Life Calling" Course which can be used for Lent or post Easter.

We are asked to be prayerful and proactive to encourage others to take their first steps.

7th May in Rochdale "Living Stones" event for younger vocations.

The "Foundations for Ministry" is also proving to be a great success in developing vocations and leadership, as being led by Revd Jane Prestwood.

Malcolm Grundy has Formation Days for Vicars and Readers to explore new Leadership Roles on Sunday 30th and Monday 31st January.

The meeting closed with a blessing from the Bishop.

Pat Barr