

# HEYWOOD & MIDDLETON DEANERY

www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org

## PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Notes taken at meeting held at 7:30pm on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at St Martin, Castleton

Meeting began with prayers by Mrs Pauline Jones and was chaired by the Area Dean.

### 1. Representation

Eleven members were present. All the churches within the Middleton Grouping, were represented, except for St Gabriel's, Middleton Junction & St Mary, Birch for which apologies were received from Dr J Broxton.

### 2. Single Agenda Item: "What do we really need a vicar for?"

This was the main focus of the meeting and was introduced by Mrs Jones. She reminded those present of the inevitable reduction in the number of stipendiary clergy and made again the point that this change would inevitably require more of lay people. As a way to begin thinking about this the rest of the meeting would take the form of a discussion about the things in parish life for which a vicar was essential and the things.

The sub-points for discussion were:

- ? Who could do what in your church?
- ? What skills could the congregation offer?
- ? How much more could the lay members contribute to the running of the church?

The meeting broke into 3 small groups: 1 group comprised exclusively of clergy and two lay-only groups, each charged with brain-storming the above topics and to meet in a plenary session to outline each group's finding.

### Combined Main Question Responses from Groups:

(In no particular order)

#### Legal Requirements on Clergy

- ? *Marriage Services*
- ? *Baptisms*
- ? *Eucharist*

#### Future Major Roles/Areas of main focus for the Clergy

- ? New Eyes (not exclusively clergy)
- ? Fresh Vision (not exclusively clergy)
- ? Resource person
- ? Driver of the Vision
- ? Where the buck stops
- ? Feed, Teach and Lead : specialist and skilled interpretation of scripture
- ? Focus of Unity
- ? Initiation
- ? Daily Office – Praise with prayers for Parish needs

#### Transitional Roles: Empowerment of Lay & "Letting go"

- ? Leadership
- ? Guidance
- ? Consultative capacity
- ? Giving Spiritual Support
- ? Training/Education of Lay people

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? Encouragement

### Areas where Lay could contribute the major or greater supporting roles:-

- ? Chairing PCCS and other committee meetings
- ? Organising/Running Groups/courses: e.g. ALPHA courses, Baptism preparation, House Groups, Music Groups/ Children's Groups etc
- ? Organising social events
- ? Pastoral events
- ? Building/Maintenance issues
- ? Home/Hospital visits

### Summary Conclusions

It was recognised that we were some way away from where we need to be. The challenge would be how we best get there. It was recognised that it would be a shared struggle and a shared responsibility. Each church would need to understand how it could take on more responsibilities in the running of the ministry and the clergy learn how they would undertake a new model for working. A suggestion for each church to perform a self-assessment how they could take on greater responsibility was rejected by the chair in favour of asking PCCS to revisit their earlier Mission Statement in their answers to the '5 Questions'.

### 3. Next meetings and future timetable:

2007		
Advent	Deanery Pastoral Committee: Quiet Morning	St Margaret, Heywood
Autumn	Next Deanery Pastoral Committee	T.B.A.