

# HEYWOOD & MIDDLETON DEANERY

www.heywoodandmiddletondeanery.org

## PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Notes taken at meeting held at 7:30p.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> Sep 2005 at Middleton Rectory

### **Present:**

Canon Nick Feist, Rev'd Geoff Turner, Rev'd Ian Butterworth, Rev'd Chris Fallone, Mrs Pauline Jones, Mrs Sylvia Thompson, Mr Robert Lundy, and Mr John Pye.

### **Apologies:**

Mr Lee Seville and Mr Frank Platt

Nick opened the meeting with prayers at 7:45pm

The prime concern of the evening was to evolve a strategy or focus for the meeting on Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2005

Nick summarised the current thinking to date:

- ? Vision was not one which divided the Deanery into the two parts: one of Heywood and one of Middleton
- ? There should be a strategy of shared resources across the Deanery, especially for Youth work.
- ? The 16 worship centres would only be able to be served by 9 Stipendiary Clergy, but there was a danger in only thinking in terms of these 9 Clergy, when there are a total of 16 OLMs and Readers etc as well, who are part of the solution.

Nick asked for comments from the floor to stimulate discussion.

The following comments were made:

1. The following model was proposed, notwithstanding all the legal issues that would need to be resolved for it to be viable.

Proposed Model:-

- ? The Deanery should act as a single parish, with all existing clergy, stipendiary or otherwise, working as a combined team for the enlarged 'parish'.
- ? Within this 'parish' each worship centre has a non-stipendiary clergy person who is willing to minister to the people attending that worship centre and furthermore has a stipendiary minister who has responsibility for the overall charge but may have overall charge of another or other worship centres.

Initial problems were seen to be:

- ? The lack of sufficient non-stipendiary clergy willing to 'move' churches, as although 16 non-stipendiary clergy and 16 buildings, there were often more than 1 non-stipendiary supporting a single worship centre. If this was the case then each church could be encouraged to nurture its own dedicated minister.
- ? Current job description of an OLM as they were appointed to serve the local parish. Readers did not have this problem as they were Diocesan appointments
- ? Redrawing of Parish boundaries

2. A further comment raised was the problem of how do we get people meeting and cooperating together. But why should they? Until they felt a sense of their own identity, it was unlikely that they would reach out to support others.

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3. Difficulties for administering the Eucharist would need to be addressed if insufficient clergy were available.
4. As yet, there was insufficiently accurate picture of the OLM. NSM and Reader availability and capability across the Deanery, in order to draw up more detailed plans for their most effective mission.
5. Sundays are not the biggest problem. It was also felt that people generally did not really appreciate the total work profile of clergy, especially those clergy with chairmanship of the school governing body.
6. We need a 'fresh look' at Sunday worship and need to 'think out of the box'.
7. Pending retirements, such as Rev'd Ian Cook, would present its own unique problem within the Deanery, as St Gabriel, Chadderton is an 'ABC' church, which does not allow ministry in any form to be conducted by a woman.
8. Other churches were probably 'viable in their own right' as being sufficiently large and capable of 'supporting' their own vicar under the new figures. St Michael's and St Leonard's were the two cases in point. St Michael's had already plotted the development of their vision and it all centred around Rev'd Gordon Joyce, as they would struggle to coordinate any effort without him being there.
9. Some ideas could be forthcoming from the Derby Diocese as they had already been faced with a similar scenario and had deployed the idea of 'Clustered Parishes'. To do the same here, we would need to educate people into the new way of working and worshipping together.

Following the 'brainstorming session, it was agreed to continue as planned with the special meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> Sept and the agenda for the meeting was agreed that the meeting would begin with a presentation followed by an opportunity for questions of clarification, then a session working in small groups, with a report back.

A letter would be circulated prior to the meeting, which would also serve as a reminder.

It was also decide either to invite a member of the Derby Diocese to come to the next meeting, or a small working party to visit Derby to better understand the issues they faced and the solution that they are now developing.

More information can be found on the Derby Diocese website [http://www.derby.anglican.org/about/rm\\_index.php](http://www.derby.anglican.org/about/rm_index.php), which is the Renewing Ministry page.

### **Date of next meeting**

? SPECIAL MEETING : 26th September 7:30pm at St Martin, Castleton