

Deanery Pastoral Committee

Held on Oct 6th at St James, Heywood at 7:00pm

1. Opening Prayer

Rev'd Canon Phil Miller (PM) thanked our hosts, St James', for their kind invitation and then opened the meeting with prayers for the privilege of worship and ministry in this deanery. He then read from 1st letter of Peter.

2. Apologies

23 members were present: 11 Clergy and 12 Lay

5 apologies were received : 1 Clergy and 4 Lay : Rev'd Frances Guite (St Martin's), Mr Dominic Scrivens (St George's), Mrs Cheryl Almond (St John, Thornham), Mr Frank Platt (St Gabriel's) and Dr J Broxton, (St Thomas')

3. Minutes of the last meeting

These were accepted as a correct record.

4. Matters arising

None, as all matters were agenda items.

5. Deanery Pastoral Plan – the 11 Tasks – Response Templates

PM outlined the purpose of the meeting and explained the work that had been done by the sub-committee of the Deanery Pastoral Committee (DPC), comprising PM, Mrs Allison Bamford (AB) and Mr John Pye (JP) in preparing the response templates, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were also circulated, in booklet form, at the meeting for perusal. Their purpose, PM explained, was to help equip us in developing our strategies and action plans to allow us to best respond to the 11 tasks set out by the Diocesan Pastoral Committee (DioPC).

JP then explained the purpose of each worksheet in turn. He said that the overall purpose of each worksheet was to try to obtain a consistent set of responses by presenting questions which attempt to help in:

- the definition of each partnership/parish/church's strategy for each of the 11 tasks that are relevant to them
- formulate the action plan, with timescales, which would hope to fulfil that strategy
- identifying the issues that would need to be addressed and 'blockers' to be overcome
- identifying the resources required in doing so and to identify whatever type of support parishes/churches would need where such resources are not already available

The financial information would provide a summary position of each church to underpin any questioning by the DioPC, but would be useful to the deanery as a whole for us all to better understand the financial problems each church faces and to help the Standing Committee in any future deliberations concerning virement of Parish Share within the deanery.

JP requested that the forms be completed electronically. There was some nervousness expressed about the lack of awareness of Excel in being able to complete responses. JP offered telephone support to anyone in difficulties and to provide WORD versions if necessary.

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Questions from the floor

Some debate ensued and comments made concerning the usefulness of such an exercise, as similar exercises in the past have not proved to be very effective. Canon Nick Feist (NF) suggested some analysis of progress since the last review would be helpful and return some value from the previous efforts made. He also commented that there was a danger of "Paralysis by Analysis". Moreover, whatever action was eventually proposed by the DioPC, as a result of the exercise, would always be dependent upon the willingness of PCCs and incumbents to achieve it. It was also noted that some actions taken by the DioPC in the past had appeared to fly in the face of what had previously been agreed; although Rev'd Ian Buttterworth (IB) suggested that longer term strategies had underpinned such apparent disregard of such a previously agreed strategy.

Rev'd Matthew Carlisle, suggested that focussing on these specific 11 tasks may even take away the focus of what we really should all be concentrating on. JP responded that the sub-committee did recognise the latter point and explained that the initial version was created from that perspective but it was decided that if would be less confusing if the structure reflected the DioPC concerns, but that those elements that were missing from the DioPC tasks, in particular, concerning growth of the church with respect to children and young people, have been retained, to allow us to report on our strategy and action plans of other matters not covered by the 11 specific tasks.

It was agreed that St Leonard's and St John, Thornham also complete Task5 & 6 and a single benefice but with two separate parishes. The necessity of providing a financial summary was debated, as the diocese will already have the figures. IB suggested that the format presented here was a much more user-friendly view of each church's financial affairs and should be retained as it would provide a useful and handy summary.

IB also commented that St James was going to need support from the rest of the deanery and this sort of information gathering would help to define that help and enable us all to understand the role we have to play as partners within the deanery.

Timetable

JP proposed an outline plan for completion.

2011	
6 th Oct	DPC : Agree final format of templates
Oct to Jan	PCCs/DCCs meet to discuss responses and complete the Excel worksheets
2012	
6 th Jan	Deadline for Parishes to send completed responses back to Deanery Secretary (earlier responses welcomed!)
2 nd week Feb	Collated report completed from all responses and circulated ready for Deanery Pastoral Committee ratification
3 rd week Feb	DPC meet to discuss final report and any amendments agreed before final ratification
4 th week Feb	Report updated with any amendments and sent to Dio PC
March	Presentation to Diocesan Pastoral Committee

In order to help collate the final report, JP asked for additional people to join the present sub-committee. Rev'd Jackie Calow volunteered.

JP suggested that the final presentation could possibly be in the form of a PowerPoint presentation with an associated written summary report to support the presentation. The responses from parishes would not be presented verbatim.

The review of the final presentation and report by DPC to allow amendments to be made prior to it going before the DioPC was welcome by Rev'd Maureen Thorp.

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The final comment concerning the Task List, from NF, was for parishes/churches to respond to the tasks honestly, to show it “how it really is”.

Sharing Information

AB suggested that the deanery should keep a ‘blog’ of tradesmen who were known to be competent and offered good value based on previous experience, and conversely ones who did not, being careful and accurate with any negative comments! There also may be possibilities to look at in the future for combining together in a ‘Group’ to obtain preferential rates from utility .companies.

Clergy Fellowship

PM commented that the clergy were all working together really well. He found the ‘Away Days’ at Whalley Abbey very worthwhile and always now looked forward to them. A real sense of trust and fellowship is developing.

Future Guidelines for Deanery Clergy Complement

NF asked about the future complement of clergy in the deanery. PM was not aware of any revised total but pointed out that the current figures did not take account of the impact that two extra parishes in the deanery had brought. The current complement of clergy for the 17 places of worship is 8 stipendiary with 1 vacancy (St Gabriel) and 10 additional NSM/OLM/curates meant that we were very close to the maximum level expected to be deployed for our worship base.

6. Date and venue of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should be on 15th February at All Saints & Martyrs at 7:00pm where the final report would be presented and any amendments would be agreed by the DPC prior to its going to DioPC.

7. A.O.B.

Various events were publicised:

Sunday	Oct 16 th	6:30pm	Informal Worship : “The Bible Big Sing” – modern and traditional music to celebrate the 400 Anniversary of the King James bible
Tuesday	Oct 18 th	Doors 7:00pm	All Saints and Martyrs Variety Show at Middleton Arena tickets £10. Please support if you can.
Saturday	Oct 22 nd	Lots of slots available	Bible Reading (20 minute spells – volunteers wanted – contact Rev’d Marcia Wall) (see above)
Saturday	Oct 29 th	7:30pm	Two Sisters and a Funeral at All Saints and Martyrs
Tuesday	Nov 1 st	7:30pm	All Saints & Martyrs Patronal Festival : Rev’d Chris Bracegirdle preaching

Deanery Event Sheet

AB is willing to issue further versions should Parishes wish to advertise events through this medium. JP added that he is always willing to email notices for events to whatever circulation is desired and also to publicise such on the deanery website.

8. Close

The meeting closed just before 9:00pm with a prayer from IB followed by The Grace.