

# HEYWOOD & MIDDLETON DEANERY

## PASTORAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 at Middleton Rectory

### 1. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2003 were approved as a correct record.

### 2. Departures

It was reported that Rev'd Julia Bebbington would be leaving Langley at Easter.

### 3. St James and Heywood Team

- a) A joint meeting of the Heywood Team P.C.C. and St James P.C.C. had been held to discuss the possibilities of St James joining the Team. There had also been a meeting between St James P.C.C. and the Diocesan Pastoral Committee, represented by the Archdeacon of Rochdale, Chris Barratt and Rev'd Matt Thompson. Various matters were raised including Diocesan staffing guidelines (1 incumbent to 8->9,000 people). The Team had the care of 17,000 people and St James 9,000 people. Geoff Turner stressed the need for a team member for St James and, while sympathy was expressed, no promise was made. A number of questions were raised and positive answers were given about the Team. Both P.C.C.s were asked to write to Chris Barratt. St James later held a meeting for the congregation and then of the P.C.C. The P.C.C. decided that they did not wish to explore joining the Team but agreed to suspension of the benefice and requested the appointment of a Priest-In-Charge.
- b) Geoff Turner also reported that the Team had been considering the number of church buildings in relation to the sizes of the various congregations but had not pursued it further because of the St James' issue. All Souls had the smallest congregation and in 2004 it would use the last of its reserves to meet its proportion of the Parish Share. However, there were now some signs of growth, (i.e. 14 children in Sunday School.) with young mothers coming, one of whom was being confirmed. Looking at the possible new staffing ratio of 1->9,000, Geoff asked, "What then? Would consideration of any closure of a church be based on money or shortage of clergy?"

After discussion and explanation of various views, including that St James had a long way to go before they understood the meaning of collaborative ministry, the Pastoral Committee was unanimously of the opinion that it was disappointed that St James had withdrawn from discussions with the Heywood Team at such an early stage.

### 4. Other Matters

1. Rev'd Julia Bebbington's work at the Burnside Centre, Langley would be greatly missed. The annual turnover for the Trust was £100,000 and she had acted as the Treasurer. There were concerns over the Trustee situation. The Team would feel the effect of her absence also in terms of funerals.
2. It was noted that the five year suspension of benefice period for St Martin, Castleton would expire this summer.

The meeting closed with a prayer