

**HEYWOOD & MIDDLETON DEANERY
PASTORAL COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 17th November, 2003

Present: Canon N. Feist, Rev G. Turner, Mrs M. Wall, Mrs M. Evason and Mrs S. Thompson.

Apologies: Rev S. Evason and Mr G. Yates.
Rev P. Miller and Mr G. Etugo arrived after the meeting had started.

The meeting opened with prayers.

Nick said that the Pastoral Meetings were to be more pro-active not just during a vacancy.

CONCERNS:

1. Geoff has already met with Nick to share his concerns within the Team: - too many buildings and too little resources both money and people. But now, more so as St James will be vacant from December 2003.
2. Middleton: - both curates have moved and Julia is hoping to move from Langley in the future.

HEYWOOD

- a) Geoff said that he has been concerned for some time for the Team. Two churches – St John’ s and St Margaret’ s are viable in terms of people and finances. But there are no financial reserves. St Luke’ s and All Souls have smaller congregations and a little in terms of financial reserves. All Souls is running at a deficit of £8,000 p.a., using reserves. Congregations have seen new people, but others leave because of age.
- b) Buildings: - St Margaret’ s is the cheapest to run; St John’ s needs some serious roof repairs; All Souls is in good repair; St Luke’ s is a Grade 2* listed building, with problems and applications to English Heritage Lottery Fund.
- c) Geoff suggests that one church – All Souls – should be closed and that how this is done should be set in motion soon.
- d) It was felt that the presentation to the benefice of St James may be suspended once Stuart has left.
- e) Geoff raised the question of clergy numbers and the possibility of St James joining the Team. He feels that he does not have enough incumbents at the moment to take on St James as well.
- f) The Parish Hall and Church at St James’ have problems showing up and the Parish Share has not been paid in full recently.
- g) Philip suggested that the Deanery request that the Team be not asked to take on St James’ without additional help.
- h) The Team has about 17,000 and St James’ has about 10,000.

MIDDLETON

- a) No vacancies, but reduction in staffing since the Farnworths moved. And Julia is looking to a move.
- b) Three churches – St Leonard’ s, St Margaret and St Michael’ s– for about 25,000 people.
- c) There are issues around the three worship centres in Rhodes, for about 60 people.
- d) There will be no curate for St Leonard’ s or St Michael’ s next year.
- e) The Team of St Leonard’ s and St John, Thornham and the Team of All Saints and Martyrs and Holy Trinity, Parkfield each have one large and one small parish.
- f) Philip feels that when Julia moves, Adrian may have to work across both Parishes.
- g) Building at Langley causing great concern and may probably need a new roof.
- h) St Gabriel’ s is thriving and Ian Cook may retire in July 2004. The finances are O.K.
- i) St Michael’ s USA is 150/160, (like St Leonard’ s), with recent re-ordering in Church. Is in biggest middle class area of Middleton.
- j) St John, Thornham needs £70,000 for a new roof and re-ordering scheme. Prospect of a grant from English Heritage Lottery Fund is not known. Problem of the school and whether it will be closed by RMBC.
- k) Rhodes has defaulted in paying the Parish Share.

CASTLETON

- a) Still in honeymoon stage, but already cases of vandalism and the heating is still not working.

GENERAL

There is a need to help each other within the Deanery, especially in the taking of funerals.

The next meeting will be in the New Year.