

Helmsley Deanery Synod

NOTES OF THE SEVENTH JOINT HELMSLEY DEANERY/RYEDALE METHODIST CIRCUIT MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, NAWTON BEADLAM ON WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2007 AT 7.00 PM FOR 7.30.

ATTENDANCE.

1. 26 members of the Helmsley Deanery Synod and Ryedale Methodist Circuit attended.

REFRESHMENTS.

2. Refreshments were provided by the Ryedale Methodists to whom our thanks.

WORSHIP.

3. Readings and prayers at the start and end of the meeting were led by David Purdy and Susan Greenwood.

RURAL ISSUES.

4. Bob Baker, Rural Development Officer for the Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber gave an interesting and thought provoking presentation on his work. He explained that the Churches Regional Commission for Yorkshire and the Humber (CRC) was a Christian organisation proactive with public bodies and faith partners in promoting regeneration in the region.

5. The aims of Bob's post were to reach the people who had fallen out of the net of support usually provided in the countryside working with the churches in Ryedale, Richmondshire and Hambleton. This had been achieved by working with the clergy, attending auction marts and other agricultural events whilst establishing a network of volunteers and professionals. Bob worked in close collaboration with the Farm Crisis Network, which is a UK charity network of groups of volunteers drawn from the farming community and rural churches responding to hardship in the farming community.

6. Bob worked in partnership with a large number of organisations including NYCC Trading Standards, District Councils, DEFRA, the Rural Payments Agency, the NFU, Yorkshire Forward and the RSPCA to name but a few.

7. Bob highlighted a number of achievements to date: supporting farmers in court action, organising events on the Single Farm Payment Scheme, lobbying for broadband access in Wensleydale, providing support for families leaving farming, mediating between farmers and landowners, giving addresses at church services and events, providing clergy with agricultural and rural information and acting as a link between the farming community and statutory bodies.

8. A number of Bob's cases were then described which had been referred to him by Trading Standards, FCN, Clergy and by direct approach which exemplified the varied, compassionate and painstaking work carried out by all involved. This was followed by a lively question and answer session. Bob then asked those present to take away a number of his business cards to place in their churches in order to advertise the service that was provided to those in need.

9. Bob was warmly thanked for his excellent presentation and also for the work that he carried out in looking after the farming and rural community.

ANGLICAN METHODIST COVENANT

10. David Goodman informed the meeting that he had recently attended a meeting to discuss the possibility of extending the Anglican - Methodist Covenant to include the United Reformed Church. The meeting, chaired by the Archdeacon of Cleveland and his URC equivalent had been very positive.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

10. The date of the next joint meeting (2008) would be determined later in the year. Deanery Synod members are advised that the next meeting of Synod would be on Wednesday 6th June and not Wednesday 13th June as previously notified.

Ian Henley
Deanery Synod Secretary

24 February 2007

Distribution:

All Synod Members
Ryedale Methodist Circuit (20)