

Helmsley Deanery Synod

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HELMSLEY DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, LASTINGHAM AT 7.30 PM ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2008

Present:

Revd Canon David Purdy
Tony Gillham
Revd Alastair Ferguson
Revd Andrew de Smet
Revd Ron Treasure
Sue Binks
Geoffrey Booth
David Goodman
Helen Goodman
Rona Kormack
John Lindley
D Gordon Mellor
Jenny Mills
Christine Smith
Ann Martin
Joan Walker
Ian Henley

Joint Chairman
Joint Chairman

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Apologies:

Revd Michael Cartwright
Carole Lead
Josie Thrower
Hilary Slights

ACTION

ITEMS 1 AND 9. OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS

1. The meeting opened and closed with prayers led by Tony Gillham and David Purdy respectively. Before the prayers, thanks were expressed to Lastingham PCC for the refreshments provided.

ITEM 2. REVISED DIOCESAN STRUCTURES.

2. Present diocesan structures were not sufficiently integrated to enable effective decision-making. There was a need to bring together finance (DBF) and policymaking and also to ensure that the whole church (diocese, deaneries and parishes) worked together and had confidence in the organisation as a whole. The Diocesan Secretary had produced a draft proposal. This was being discussed and appropriate motions would be put before the Diocesan Synod in 2008.

3. The proportion of the diocesan budget funded by the parishes (the basic unit of the church) had increased markedly in recent times. There was a clear need for parishes and deanery synods to become engaged more fully in decision-making. It was envisaged that Deanery Synod Representatives would appoint (elect) those engaged in policymaking and financial affairs. Consequently, it was important that PCC's took Deanery Synod membership seriously and elected to the Deanery Synod **key** members of the PCC's.

4. Some members felt that amalgamating Pickering and Helmsley Deaneries could result in too geographically widespread an area. However, one benefit could be a more streamlined organisation. There was a need to ensure a more workmanlike and communicative relationship not only between deaneries and the dioceses but also between the General Synod and the Deaneries.

5. Synod members' attention was drawn to the key recommendations of the subject paper (included with the agenda mailing)

ITEM 3. PASTORAL REORGANISATION.

6. The Diocese has not enough money nor are there sufficient ordinands in training to maintain clergy numbers in the future. Consequently, the Archdeacon of Cleveland had tasked the deaneries, under the leadership of the Rural Deans, to recommend a redeployment, which would reduce by 3 (from 10 to 7) the current number of clergy serving in the Helmsley and Pickering Deaneries. A Working Group had been established, the first meeting of which had been on 5th February. The next meeting was planned for 9th April.

7. It was apparent that 7 clergy would be unable effectively to carry out the tasks previously carried out by 10 clergy. Therefore, the role of the clergy would need to change. An omni competent priest could not be expected to do everything himself. Thus, the laity would need to become much more involved than hitherto in the mission and ministry of the church. This would require some changes in attitude. However, the reduction in clergy numbers would be a gradual process implemented most probably as incumbents retired.

8. There would be merit in exploring the issue with neighbours of other traditions.

ITEM 4. DISCUSSION – WHAT ARE THE CORE ROLES OF THE CLERGY?

9. Following on from the previous item, the meeting split into discussion to groups to consider what the core roles of the clergy should be. These were considered to be ministry, leadership, the Eucharist, baptisms, weddings, teaching, prayer, team building and spiritual guidance among others.

10. However, in addition to assisting the clergy in his core roles, the laity could cover almost 100% of administrative and financial tasks, elements of pastoral care and (mostly) non-Eucharistic worship. Some clergy found it difficult to find PCC Treasurers and Churchwardens. The meeting was reminded that administration was itself a gift of the Holy Spirit.

ITEM 5. DIOCESAN MISSION TEAMS

11. The introduction of Diocesan Mission Teams was another aspect of the ongoing agenda for change within the diocese and one that the Archbishop very much supported. Such teams would strengthen the Mission of God in the Diocese. The various teams and their roles are described in the Appendix 4

attached to the agenda. The teams were not yet extant but initial discussions had been held.

ITEM 6. FINANCIAL REPORT.

12. The deanery had almost met (95.07%) the full quota allotted to it. Archdeacon Paul had written to the Rural Dean and the Deanery Financial Adviser (DFA) expressing his thanks to all parishes for their contributions even those that had struggled to reach the target, but adding the caveat that parishes should not fix their own maximum rate of increase without reference to the fact that each parish's share is effectively a variably sized slice of an inevitably expanding cake!

13. The meeting recorded its thanks to John Lindley for all his hard work as DFA.

ITEM 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

14. The meeting was urged to emphasise to individual PCC's the need for a full complement of Deanery Synod Representatives and that such representatives should be key members of the PCC's willing and able to fully get involved in deanery matters.

ITEM 8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

15. To be notified

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