

# *Helmsley Deanery Synod*

## **NOTES OF THE MEETING OF HELMSLEY DEANERY SYNOD AND KIRKBYMOORSIDE PCC HELD AT CHURCH HOUSE, KIRKBYMOORSIDE AT 7.00 PM ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2004.**

### **Present:**

**Joint Chairmen:** Revd Canon David Purdy  
Tony Gillham

**Members:** 33 from Deanery Synod and Helmsley PCC

**Synod apologies:** Revd Michael Cartwright, Revd John Warden, Jackie Crofter-Harris, Marjorie Ingleby and Val Moorby.

### **Welcome.**

1. David Purdy welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the new arrangements whereby a PCC hosted the Synod was an attempt to liven up Synod meetings and to enable Synod and PCC's to get together for their mutual benefit.

### **Opening Prayers.**

2. Opening prayers were drawn from "A Simple Evening Liturgy" and led by David Purdy.

### **Introduction from Kirkbymoorside PCC.**

3. **Kirkbymoorside.** John Lindley gave a detailed description of the town of Kirkbymoorside plus Gillamoor, Fadmoor, Farndale and Bransdale, their populations, businesses and facilities. He described Kirkbymoorside as an excellent place in which to live. There were 2785 people on the government electoral roll for the area of whom some 85% resided within the town with 136 in Gillamoor, 74 in Fadmoor, 150 in Farndale and 44 in Bransdale. The economy was thriving with many industries and businesses including aircraft manufacturing, a printing works, a laundry and a marine craft business. There was an industrial estate. The town had its full complement of shops. There were 2 hotels, a Post Office, 4 banks/building societies and a weekly market. Health care was well provided for; there was a Health Centre, Natural Health Centre, Veterinary Health Centre and pharmacy. There were many clubs and sporting facilities including an 18-hole golf course, WI, Royal British Legion and a brass band. The needs of the young were well catered for with Beavers, Scouts and a Youth club. Gillamoor had a shop and a pub, Farndale a farm shop and pub, Fadmoor a sub-post office, pub and village hall. The picture painted by John was of a bustling, lively and friendly area with a broad economy and balanced demography.

4. **Church Tourism.** Geoffrey Booth addressed the level of church tourism in the area and the actions that had been taken. He explained that the North Yorkshire Church Tourism Initiative had kick-started the process and had provided funding. The individual churches had produced plans which had decided the emphasis to be placed on the information to be displayed (church history, architecture, vicar, churchwardens, service times etc). Of most importance was the welcome that the churches gave and that they were open. The churches at Bransdale and Farndale, the location of which were set back from the road, had produced signs at the roadside with a consequent improvement in visitor numbers. It was important

that churches give the impression that they are alive for worship and not museums. The provision of refreshments was important and achieved well at Bransdale in addition to providing a large range of books for visitors to purchase. Gillamoor had installed a sensor-operated light to improve visibility inside the church as the visitor entered and were to get A-boards and display boards. Kirkbymoorside had installed display boards and were to publish a full colour leaflet.

5. **Worship.** Joan Walker reminded the meeting that the prime purpose of the church was to worship God. She emphasise the need for congeniality and lay participation and raised a number of questions for us to consider:

- a. Is the church welcoming?
- b. What is the state of service books and hymn books, are large print ones available?
- c. Is the building clean and tidy; does it smell of flowers or of damp?
- d. Is the building warm, is it well lit?
- e. Is there a loop system for the hard of hearing?
- f. Are there soft and other toys for children (but not drums and cymbals!)?
- g. Is the music of good quality: (pace, volume, tone, meaningful or dreary)? Is there background music, a choir?
- h. Are there children's services?
- i. In church, don't take people or granted – thank them for their work. (Churchwardens, retired clergy, readers, bell ringers etc).
- j. Look outward with imagination and vision.

6. **Living the Gospel.** Geoffrey Booth, on behalf of Karen Robson, gave a brief reminder of the Living the Gospel process, from its inception by Archbishop David, through Phases 1 and 2, the Springboard Travelling School, Mission Action Plans and follow-up and the "Archbishop's School of ... "series of booklets.

### **Supper.**

7. The meeting then had an excellent supper of soup, bread and cheese plus wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee with members of both groups mixing together, getting to know one another and swapping experiences.

### **Discussion Groups.**

8. David Purdy then separated the meeting into 6 discussion groups (mixed to include both Synod and PCC members) to discuss issues of worship and tourism. The questions discussed are contained in the leaflet attached to these notes. David urged the groups to grasp the opportunity and take back to individual PCC's any fresh ideas that were forthcoming. There followed lively and friendly exchanges of views with many experiences and ideas being offered and accepted.

### **Summary of Discussions.**

9. David Purdy led a summary of what had resulted from the groups. These included the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and the test of reasonableness (eg if the church is on top of a steep hill, it is unreasonable to flatten the hill). But, if affordable, sound systems for the hard of hearing and ramps for wheelchair access should be considered. The church should be open and welcoming but visitors should not be suffocated by intrusive

attention. There could be merit in asking a sister church to carry out a review of one's own church in order to identify improvements that might be made.

### **Feedback and Deanery Essential Business.**

10. It was agreed unanimously that the meeting had gone very well and that the new format for meetings of Synod should continue (2 to 3 per year in the new format with an occasional one in the old format when so needed).

11. Tony Gillham led a short session on Deanery Essential Business in which the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2003 were accepted as a true record. He then covered what had been discussed at that meeting for the benefit of the members of the Kirkbymoorside PCC.

**Secretary's Note:** A letter had been sent to the EU, HM Treasury and our MEP stressing the need for the maintenance of reduced levels of VAT on listed places of worship in the UK. A supportive reply from HM Treasury had been received. The deanery web site is now established; all 6 benefices/parishes are included. The web-site address is [www.helmsleydeanery.org](http://www.helmsleydeanery.org).

### **Closing Prayers.**

12. David Purdy drew the meeting to a close with prayers again drawn from "A Simple Liturgy"

IAN HENLEY  
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### Distribution:

All Deanery Synod Members  
All Helmsley PCC Members