

Helmsley Deanery Synod

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HELMSLEY DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HAWNBY AT 1930 ON 8TH OCTOBER 2003

Present:

Revd Canon David Purdy	Joint Chairman
Tony Gillham	Joint Chairman
Revd Dr Andrew Shanks	
Revd John Warden	
Jackie Crofter Harris	
David Goodman	
Helen Goodman	
John Lindley	
Roy Siddons	
Hilary Slights	
Margaret Strickland	
Joan Walker	
Mark Willshaw	
Ian Henley	Sec

Apologies:

Revd Michael Cartwright
Revd Ron Treasure
Revd David Wilbourne
Sue Binks
Mike Gray
Marjorie Ingleby
Carole Lead
Ann Martin
Val Moorby
Mary Siddons
Tim Rowe

ACTION

ITEMS 1 AND 12. OPENING AND CLOSING PRAYERS.

1. The meeting opened with prayers led by Tony Gillham and closed with prayers led by David Purdy.

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE DEANERY SYNOD HELD ON 24TH JUNE 2003.

2. The minutes of the previous Deanery Synod were accepted as a true record and signed.

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING.

3. **Church Tourism.** David Goodman reported on the church tourism meeting he had attended at Lastingham. It was important that parishes applied for the available grants (up to 90% of cost and up to £500 per parish) sooner rather than later for projects directly concerned with church tourism. The end date for applications was 4 June 2004. The church tourism web site would

welcome relevant material. John Eckersley would be delighted to assist any parishes wishing to produce walk leaflets.

4. Web-site Development. The Treasurer had provided funds to establish the web site. The site, www.helmsleydeanery.org was now in existence. Ampleforth Benefice and Upper Ryedale both have their own web sites and are linked to the deanery site, as is the Ryedale Christian Council. Information on the Helmsley group of churches had been entered; more details regarding Kirkbyoorside, Kirkdale and Lastingham would be added shortly.

ITEM 4. GENERAL SYNOD REPORT.

5. David Lickess gave an excellent briefing on the February and July meetings of the General Synod:

a. **February 2003.** This had taken place during the lead-up to the Iraq War and Synod had debated the issue. It was Archbishop Rowan's first Synod as Archbishop and he had received a standing ovation. There was a debate on cathedral charges. The Bridge Report on reform of synodical government had proposed a reduction in membership of synod from 570 to 480 in a bid to reduce costs. This would result in the York Diocese losing 1 member from the House of Clergy and one from the House of Laity. The Series One Marriage and Funeral Service had received a new lease of life and were authorised for use. New, modern alternative Collects had been produced as optional alternatives to the present ones in Common Worship. There had been a report on Voices from Africa.

b. **July 2003.** The report on the July 2003 meeting of Synod (written by David Lickess and provided to all Deanery members with the agenda) was amplified and discussed.

(1) **Sexual Orientation.** The disruption to the proceedings of the Synod by gay activists had done little for their cause. Archbishop Rowan had given a statesmanlike address, which had been well received. There was a need to discuss locally the controversy surrounding the issue of gay clergy, but it would be wise to wait until the House of Bishop's Report on Human Sexuality was published.

(2) **Training of Clergy.** Approximately half of those in full time training were female (20% of the 10,000 full time clergy were female). Strong views were expressed regarding the value of residential training. Ordinands were older these days which had the benefit that they brought experience and expertise in many fields but the drawback that their service life as clergy was reduced. Local schemes whereby ministers were licensed locally had the disadvantage that such ministers could not move elsewhere as they were not ordained to the Church of God.

(3) **Care of Churches.** Although the procedures surrounding faculties were cumbersome and time-consuming, any relaxation of

church oversight could lead to local government interference. The reduced (5%) VAT rate for the maintenance and care of Listed Places of Worship was under threat from the EU Sixth VAT Directive review.

Decision. It was decided that the Sec should write to the Chairman and Rapporteur on Lower Rate VAT at the EU and lobby for the retention of the reduced rate.

Sec

ITEM 5. PARISH SHARE 2004.

6. Determination of the Parish Share consisted of 2 phases. Phase 1 where the Diocese agreed to the Church budget and Phase 2 where the contributions of the archdeaconries and deaneries were established. Calculations were based on church attendance, income and clergy posts. In addition, there was an adjustment in favour of economically deprived areas. The Chairman and Treasurer had attended the Phase 2 meeting and had gained the impression that they had agreed to an increase of 5.9% this coming year. However, the increase was 5.9% on the Diocesan share from which Helmsley Deanery had then received a rebate. Consequently, the real increase for the Deanery over last year amounted to 13.9%. Upon realising this, representation had been made to the Archdeacon. While not formally agreeing a reduction, an unofficial cap, limiting the increase to 5.9%, had been accepted. Detailed figures would be issued later, until which time, it would be unwise to discuss figures outside Synod. Above inflation increases in Parish Share would continue; due in part to the necessity to finance the increase in clergy pensions. FY 2005 looked especially difficult.

Decision. It was agreed that the line taken by the Chairman and Treasurer had been appropriate and that the increase should be applied equally in percentage terms to all Parishes.

Treasurer

ITEM 6. DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT.

7. The Treasurer introduced the Diocesan Synod report (sent out in the Agenda mailing). The title should have read, "Hope for the Church". The "Hope for the Church" booklet is available from the Treasurer.

ITEM 7. LIVING THE GOSPEL – LIVENING UP OUR MEETINGS.

8. Andrew Shanks suggested that there was a need to liven up the meetings of Synod and put into action suggestions made at the last meeting. Meetings should be fun and mix business with pleasure. Agenda items could be reduced and greater use made of written reports. There was a need to interact more with the parishes.

Decision. It was decided that, starting at the next meeting of Synod and lasting initially for one year, Individual benefices/parishes would be asked to host the Synod and provide a simple meal for all to share. The hosts would be asked to give a small presentation on their Christian work. In addition, Synod would present on a topic of interest. It was further agreed to accept Kirkbymoorside's invitation to host the first meeting in the new format.

Joint
Chairmen

ITEM 8. WORKING GROUP REPORTS.

9. Communications Group. Members were encouraged to provide articles for the next newsletter.

10. Youth Group. All Primary School leavers in the deanery had received the booklet produced by the Scripture Union. It was suggested the deanery should fund the provision to all 7-year olds of the video "Come with Marcus" which tells the story of St Mark's Gospel.

ITEM 9. ELECTION OF ONE LAY MEMBER TO DIOCESAN SYNOD HOUSE OF LAITY.

11. David Wilbourne had been elected to the Diocesan Synod House of Clergy but there was a need to elect a further member to the House of Laity.

12. Vote. The lay members of Deanery Synod voted unanimously to elect Joan Walker to the Diocesan Synod House of Laity.

13. Decision. The Sec agreed to notify Diocesan House of the result of the election.

Sec

ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

14. Parish Contribution to Deanery Synod.

Decision. It was decided that the contribution requested of parishes to finance the activities of the deanery synod should remain at £15 per church.

Treasurer

ITEM 11. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING

15. The next meeting of the Deanery Synod would take place at Church House, Kirkbymoorside at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm on Monday 26th January 2003.

Sec

Secretary's Note: There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Wednesday, 7th January at 2.30 pm at The Vicarage, Kirkbymoorside.

IAN HENLEY
Sec

Distribution:

Revd Canon David Lickess
All Deanery Synod Members