

# *Helmsley Deanery Synod*

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HELMSLEY DEANERY SYNOD HELD AT CHURCH HOUSE, KIRKBYMOORSIDE ON 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006.

### Present:

Revd Canon David Purdy  
Revd Alastair Ferguson  
Revd Ron Treasure  
Revd Yvonne Yates  
Sue Binks  
Geoffrey Booth  
Susan Doktor  
David Goodman  
Helen Goodman  
Carole Lead  
John Lindley  
Gordon Mellor  
Jenny Mills  
Hilary Slights  
Christine Smith  
Ann Stewart  
Joan Walker  
Josie Thrower  
Mark Wilshaw  
Ian Henley

Joint Chairman

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### Apologies:

Revd David Wilbourne  
Revd Michael Cartwright  
Revd David Coleman  
Tony Gillham  
Dr E Garthwaite

Joint Chairman

**ACTION**

### ITEMS 1 AND 9. OPENING AND CLOSING WORSHIP

1. The meeting opened with a short act of worship and closed with prayers led by David Purdy.

### ITEM 2. MAKING THE MOST OF DEANERY SYNOD

3. The paper, "Making the most of Deanery Synod had been circulated before the meeting. Synod was tasked with discussing the paper with the aim of determining what Helmsley Deanery could do to be more effective and dynamic in its role. Synod's response is itemised below.

#### 4. Opening up Parishes to Bright ideas.

- a. Synod was of great value in bringing together the parish representatives so that lessons learned in one parish could benefit all parishes.

- b. Greater use should be made of visiting speakers with parish representatives suggesting topics of interest.

5. **Parish Share.** This issue caused considerable heartache to many. Some parishes found that there was considerable donor reluctance to meet the share and a failure, in some places, to recognise the implications of failing to do so. Synod felt that:

- a. Greater emphasis should be placed at all levels on explaining how vital it was for the mission of the church that not only should the share be paid fully but also enthusiastically.
- b. Within the diocese, there were large city areas with marked poverty whose spiritual needs were not matched by the ability to fund those needs and that it was incumbent on the better off areas to support them.
- c. All church members should aim to give 5% of net income to the church. If that was achieved there would be no shortfall in funding the parish share.

6. **Agenda , Patterns of Meetings, Initiatives etc.** It was felt that Synod meetings had improved over the years. It was suggested that:

- a. There could be 4 Synods per year of which two could deal with routine business but the remainder could deal with larger projects, fellowship, spirituality, debates on issues of concern and work with children and young people.
- b. Synod should focus on the areas of training, mission, communication, and young people. The sub-groups that dealt with these areas should each include a clergy member. The diocese had a wealth of training resources and had introduced lay training initiatives but it was incumbent on the deanery to take advantage of them.
- c. There was a need to develop the Deanery Newsletter. This could only be achieved if more people were willing to contribute articles and get involved in its production.

7. **Debate, Mutual Support and Other Insights.**

- a. The use of debates on topical issues was supported.
- b. There was a need for greater spirituality in Synod meetings.
- c. Synod provided a good link with the parishes but the 2-way dialogue needed enhancing. It was important that Synod Reps reported Synod proceedings back to their PCC's and that PCC's prompted their representatives to air their concerns at Synod.
- d. It was important that not only the parish clergy and representatives together attended Synod.
- e. Greater use should be made of audio-visual media and the Internet.

**ITEM 3. PARISH SHARE.**

8. The Parish Share for 2006/7 had been determined and the budget agreed. The increase for the diocese as a whole is 6% but 5.7% for Helmsley Deanery. Parish Treasurers had been informed. Anticipating dismay, the Treasurer had asked the Diocese to produce a briefing paper. This, together with a list of required individual parish contributions is attached.

**ITEM 4. PAROCHIAL REPRESENTATION.**

9. The Deanery had been asked if the present system of parish representation on Deanery Synod's caused significant problems and whether or not the system should change from representation by parish to representation by Benefice.

10. **Decision.** It was agreed that the Secretary should advise the Diocese that Helmsley Deanery had no significant problems with the present system and saw no need to change it.

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**ITEM 5. KIRKDALE – THE FUTURE**

11. The Chairman advised the meeting that he had been assured by the Archdeacon that John Warden would be replaced but that the post was likely to be part-time post (ie 2 weekdays plus Sundays). Synod was asked to treat this information as Confidential.

**ITEM 6. CLERGY PENSIONS.**

12. Synod was asked to vote on the options offered in the paper "Clergy Pensions – The Way Forward".

13. **Decision.** It was decided that the Secretary should advise the Diocese that the Synod had voted unanimously for Option A, the option recommended by the Archbishop's' Task Group that the Defined Benefit scheme should be retained but amended as outlined in the paper.

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**ITEM 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14. Revd Ron Treasure briefed the meeting on the Barnabus Fund. He explained that the mission of the Barnabus Fund was to support Christians where they were in a minority and suffered discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. Ron distributed copies of the Barnabus Fund magazine and he invited members to support the Fund and also "Suffering Church Sunday 2006" in any Sunday in November. Members were invited to take a copies of the "Suffering Church Sunday" which included resources to be used in the church service.

**ITEM 8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING**

23. The next meeting of the Synod Standing Committee will take place on Tuesday 21 November at 2.00 pm at the Rectory, Kirkbymoorside. Dates for future meetings of Synod will be communicated shortly thereafter.

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IAN HENLEY  
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Distribution:

All Deanery Synod Members