

**HELMSLEY DEANERY RE-ORGANISATION – NOTES OF FIIRST  
MEETING OF WORKING GROUP HELD AT THE VICARAGE,  
KIRKBYMOORSIDE ON 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008.**

**Present** – 6 incumbents plus 12 lay representatives

Following prayers, the Rural Dean reminded the meeting of the need for a reduction by 3 in the number of stipendiary ordained clergy posts in the Helmsley and Pickering Deaneries. This had been brought about by financial constraints as well as the retirement of more clergy than there were newly ordained clergy to replace them. There was a clear and pressing need to produce a Deanery plan to determine the necessary re-organisation of benefices/parishes. The Archdeacon had suggested that Helmsley and Ampleforth could combine and that Kirkbymoorside could take on Edstone, Salton and Normanby with Lastingham combining with Sinnington and Marton. These were, however, only initial thoughts and it was vital that all concerned were involved fully in the final outcome. There was no guarantee that the wishes of the deanery would be met but, if the deanery's plan was sensible and well argued, highlighting the particular (unusual) demands of each incumbency, there was every chance that it would be adopted. Also, there was a need for the hierarchy to be reminded of the additional constraints of rural versus urban ministry (eg dispersed churches).

The meeting was able to produce a planned redeployment of clergy/benefices/parishes not significantly different to that envisaged by the Archdeacon. This is produced at Page 3 with accompanying explanatory notes.

A number of points were made.

1. As clergy were forced to take on more and more parishes, it would become increasingly difficult to minister properly to them.
2. It was essential that sufficient members of laity took on more tasks not only to ease the workload on the incumbent but also to themselves answer their calling to be full members of the body of Christ engaged in mission and ministry.
3. The meeting felt that the core activities of the ordained clergy were celebrant, prayer, pastoral care and teaching. The laity could relieve the clergy of the burden of administration and organization, of most of the care and maintenance of the fabric of the church and for financial affairs. Some clergy felt that there might be difficulty in attracting sufficient numbers of suitably capable lay members to carry out these tasks. However, the meeting felt that with sufficient encouragement and, perhaps, the amalgamation of some PCC's into DCC's, this could be achieved. The laity would also need to

become more involved in leading worship, becoming members of a pastoral care team and a host of other activities.

4. The retired clergy had a useful role to play, but their continuing availability could not be assumed.

5. There was a clear need for increasing numbers of laity to be trained and persuaded to take a more active part in the mission and ministry of the church. Some members of the laity felt that they did not have sufficient time to take on extra responsibilities but there was no reason why certain duties eg churchwarden could not be shared between busy individuals.

6. It would be useful to consult with our ecumenical partners in order to see how they coped with similar difficulties.

7. Patrons would need to be made aware of the re-organisation, but it was felt that patrons would not resist change.

8. It would be useful to consider other models of clergy disposition (eg The Ministry Team model).

9. It was felt that a meeting with the Archdeacon would be beneficial and that this should be arranged for the third meeting of the working group.

10. The next meeting, the second meeting, would be held at Kirkbymoorside Vicarage on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.

Ian Henley

Working Group and Deanery Synod Secretary

## HELMSLEY DEANERY RE-ORGANISATION – FIRST DRAFT

### **UPPER RYEDALE AND HELMSLEY**

1 Clergy Post + 1 NSM

Bilsdale	Helmsley
Cold Kirby	Eastmoors
Hawnby	Rievaulx
Old Byland	Sproxton
Scawton	

### **Notes**

Good geographical and pastoral union.

### **AMPLEFORTH**

0.5 Clergy Post (2 Readers)

Ampleforth	Ampleforth College
Oswaldkirk	
Stonegrave	
Gilling East	

Could be reduced to half post with (say) diocesan training role. Special relationship (worship, confirmations etc) with Ampleforth College

### **KIRKDALE**

0.5 Clergy Post (1 Reader)

Beadlam  
Harome  
Kirkdale  
Nunnington  
Pockley

As before: half post + diocesan pastoral post

### **KIRKBYMOORSIDE**

1 Clergy Post (1 Reader)

Kirkbymoorside	Edstone
Bransdale	Salton
Farndale	Normanby
Gillamoor	

3 Additional Parishes could render workload unsustainable without further manpower resources.

### **LASTINGHAM**

1 Clergy Post

Lastingham	Sinnington
Appleton-le-Moors	Marton
Cropton	
Hutton Le Hole	
Rosedale	

2 additional parishes could provide lay resources to ensure viability.