DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL AND NOTTINGHAM

NOTTINGHAM NORTH DEANERY
and
NOTTINGHAM SOUTH DEANERY

Minutes of the first joint inaugural meeting of Nottingham North and Nottingham South Deaneries on Tuesday 10 September 19.30 at St John's College Nottingham

Present: 16 clerical and 31 lay members of Nottingham North and 21 clerical and 38 lay members of Nottingham South.
Members of General Synod: Canon Dr Christina Baxter, the Revd Canon Prof. Anthony Thiselton.
By invitation: The Bishop of Sherwood (the Rt Revd Tony Porter), the Archdeacon of Nottingham (the Ven. Peter Hill), Nigel Spraggins (Diocesan Chief Executive), the Revd Canon Alan Payne (Diocesan Director of Development), members of St John's College and other guests.
In attendance: Malcolm Stacey (administrative support)

Apologies: 9 clerical and 19 lay members of Nottingham North and 19 clerical and 27 lay members of Nottingham South; Colin Slater (General Synod).

1. Gathering

Members assembled from 19.00 for refreshments, an introduction to the programme and a time of worship.

2. The best and worst of the deanery!

Members divided into 19 groups, each consisting of at least one person from each of the four old deaneries, to react speedily to 22 statements about the purpose of the deanery. An analysis appears as appendix 1.

3. Mission strengths and weaknesses

In the same groups members exchanged information on their parishes by stating in each case the *three mission opportunities* and *one mission weakness* which had been identified in advance by their PCCs or by other means. This produced a very large number of statements, a summary of which appears as the first two sections of appendix 2.

4. Discerning God

There was then a reflection on mission by the two Area Deans, followed by interviews with two contrasting mission initiatives:

- The Revd Sue Hemsley Halls described the way in which St Mary's, Attenborough was relating to visitors to the adjacent Attenborough Nature Reserve with backing from the diocese's Mission Development Fund.
- Capt Paul Ward spoke of his ministry in the city centre based at the Malt Cross.

The challenges faced by some organisations in the City and Broxtowe Borough were presented on the screen and are reproduced as appendix 3.

5. Creating a future

In the same groups members referred back to the identified strengths and weaknesses and the evening's other presentations and then listed the opportunities and threats which had to be addressed. These appear as the third and fourth sections of appendix 2.

6. Next steps

Members were urged to identify candidates for the post of Lay Chair in each deanery in anticipation of elections at the next meeting. They were also introduced to the concept of groups charged with specific tasks to further the life and mission of the deanery. A group consisting of the Area Deans, the Bishop of Sherwood, the Archdeacon of Nottingham, Alison Maddocks and Malcolm Stacey would meet on 11 September to reflect on the evening's deliberations and plan the next joint meeting.

7. Date of next meeting

There would be a second joint meeting of the two deaneries on Tuesday 23 September 2008 at 19.00 at Bluecoat School, Aspley Lane.

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