

DIOCESE OF SOUTHWELL AND NOTTINGHAM

**NOTTINGHAM NORTH DEANERY  
and  
NOTTINGHAM SOUTH DEANERY**

**Minutes of the joint meeting of  
Nottingham North and Nottingham South Deaneries  
on Tuesday 24 February 2009 at 19.30  
at the Vine Centre, Hyson Green, Nottingham  
[for item 4 the two synods met separately]**

**Present:** 13 clerical and 31 lay members of Nottingham North and 20 clerical and 37 lay members of Nottingham South. The meeting was jointly chaired by Anne Walters (Nottingham North) and Robert Cleave (Nottingham South).

*Members of General Synod:* Colin Slater.

*By invitation:* The Revd David Jones (Diocesan Officer for Urban Life and Mission), the Revd David McCoulough (Assistant Director, Partnerships), Nigel Spraggins (Diocesan Chief Executive).

*In attendance:* Malcolm Stacey (administrative support)

**Apologies:** 2 clerical and 3 lay members of Nottingham North and 3 clerical and 9 lay members of Nottingham South.

## **1. Gathering**

Members assembled from 19.00 for refreshments and pancakes. A time of worship was led by Sally Smith. Several members were welcomed to their first meeting.

### *Appointments.*

The Revd Jerry Lepine (Area Dean, Nottingham North) was congratulated on his appointment as an honorary canon of Southwell Minster.

It was announced that interviews for the post of Deanery Administrator (part-time) had been held the previous day and that the Revd Rachel Shock had been appointed with effect from 9 March. Malcolm Stacey was thanked for taking care of the administration for the eight months since June 2008.

Hugh Allton had agreed to serve as Hon. Treasurer of Nottingham South. Nottingham North still needed to find a candidate.

**Action: Nottingham North members**

## **2. Team news**

- *Finance.* Robert Cleave reported that a team had been formed and ten terms of reference devised. In addition to himself the members were Hugh Allton, Colin Bourne, Vernon Lloyd, Peter Moore, Jonathan Peto and

Tom Sydney. They were a neat reflection of new and experienced synod members from a spread of parishes in both deaneries.

### 3. The seven mission priorities

1. *Serving community - social action partnership.* The Revd David Jones reported that he had set up a small working group to conduct a survey which would remedy the lack of a complete picture of social action in the parishes of the deaneries. A questionnaire was to be piloted shortly.

2. *Welcome and*

3. *Worship in a mission context.* Anne Walters reported that she and Keith Wood had devised a questionnaire which would establish the resources of each parish under 56 different headings. Copies had been circulated; completed returns should reach her as soon as possible. **Action: All**

4. *Spiritual vitality.* See item 4 below.

5. *Collaborative leadership and*

6. *Equipping Christians for mission.* The Revd Alan Howe and others described the Christian leadership courses which were run by Christ Church, Chilwell and involved monthly sessions over the course of a year. Peter Munro had produced a paper for the leadership team.

7. *Outreach to:*

a. *the lapsed.* In lieu of action on this point Nigel Spraggins showed a DVD on Back to Church Sunday and spoke about this developing movement which had originated in the Diocese of Manchester. A straw poll suggested that maybe half the parishes in the two deaneries had participated in 2008 and Nigel encouraged everyone to consider taking part on Sunday 27 September 2009. He also indicated that the diocese was heartened by the vigorous spirit shown by Nottingham North and South in tackling their new roles and functions.

b. *those searching for spirituality.* The Revd Karen Rooms, with Ann Hart, Len Kirke, the Revd Alison Maddocks, Julie Marriott and Sally Smith, were working on this.

c. *teenagers to 35.* A convenor for this group was still being sought.

**Action: All**

d. *men.* Paul Ward was convening a group to tackle this item.

*Church disconnection from culture.* Canon Nigel Rooms expressed his concern that, although we had identified 'Church disconnection from Culture' as behind most of the seven mission priorities, it had been missed off when developing the different task groups to take the priorities forward. He was happy to convene a group to look at this question and see what might be done about it and invited members to express an interest by contacting him on 978 4333 or email: [nigel.rooms@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:nigel.rooms@southwell.anglican.org)

**Action: All**

### 4. Spirituality: the heart of the missionary congregation

The two synods separately spent 45 minutes taking part in an exercise on spirituality (see appendix 1), based on an analysis of how much members' own congregations reflected the four main traditions in the Church: Creation, Sacrament, Spirit, Word. The responses were predictably diverse. Among them were:

- visiting other churches to share in worship

- Creation tradition not easy to understand
- the extent of shared values was notable
- differing expressions were to be expected and not suppressed as a way of achieving balance
  - differing understandings were accommodated within individual churches
    - the significance of the Church's seasons
    - this analysis omitted whole areas such as social action, prayer and personal relationship with God and, indeed, God himself
    - accepting what might need to be sacrificed to allow the Church to grow

It was hoped that the discussion had widened horizons about what is happening in other parishes.

## 5. General Synod

Colin Slater reported on the February meeting and was pleased to be able to link the words 'celebrate' and 'General Synod' together. This was principally due to the superb presentation by Canon Ruth Worsley of the motion on asylum seekers from the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. With amendments which he considered improved it the motion was passed almost unanimously. Other debates also enthused him, including that on water charges for churches and the uniqueness of Christ.

## 6. Other matters

- a. Deanery Lent Day Retreat on Thursday 19 March 2009 at St John's Church, Beeston. This was to be led by David Runcorn and all applications should reach Malcolm Stacey as soon as possible.
- b. *God at work*. The Revd Alison Maddocks recommended the book of this title by Ken Costa which was linked with a course of six one-hour sessions. Further details from <http://godatwork.org.uk/>
- c. 'Partnership update'. The Revd David McCoulough made available copies of his current newsletter and also drew attention to a flier, Matter of life and debt, which gave details of both official and church sources of advice and support.

## 7. Date of next meeting

There would be a further joint meeting of the two deaneries on Tuesday 9 June 2009 at 19.00 for 19.30 at a venue to be decided.

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26 February 2009

## Spirituality - the heart of the missionary congregation

(After the paper by Robert Warren)

*Spirituality is our understanding of how encounter with God takes place and of how that encounter is sustained (Robert Warren)*

### Mapping your church's spirituality

The four points of the compass relate to the four major traditions within the church.

**Word** is how the Protestant / evangelical tradition focuses its faith.

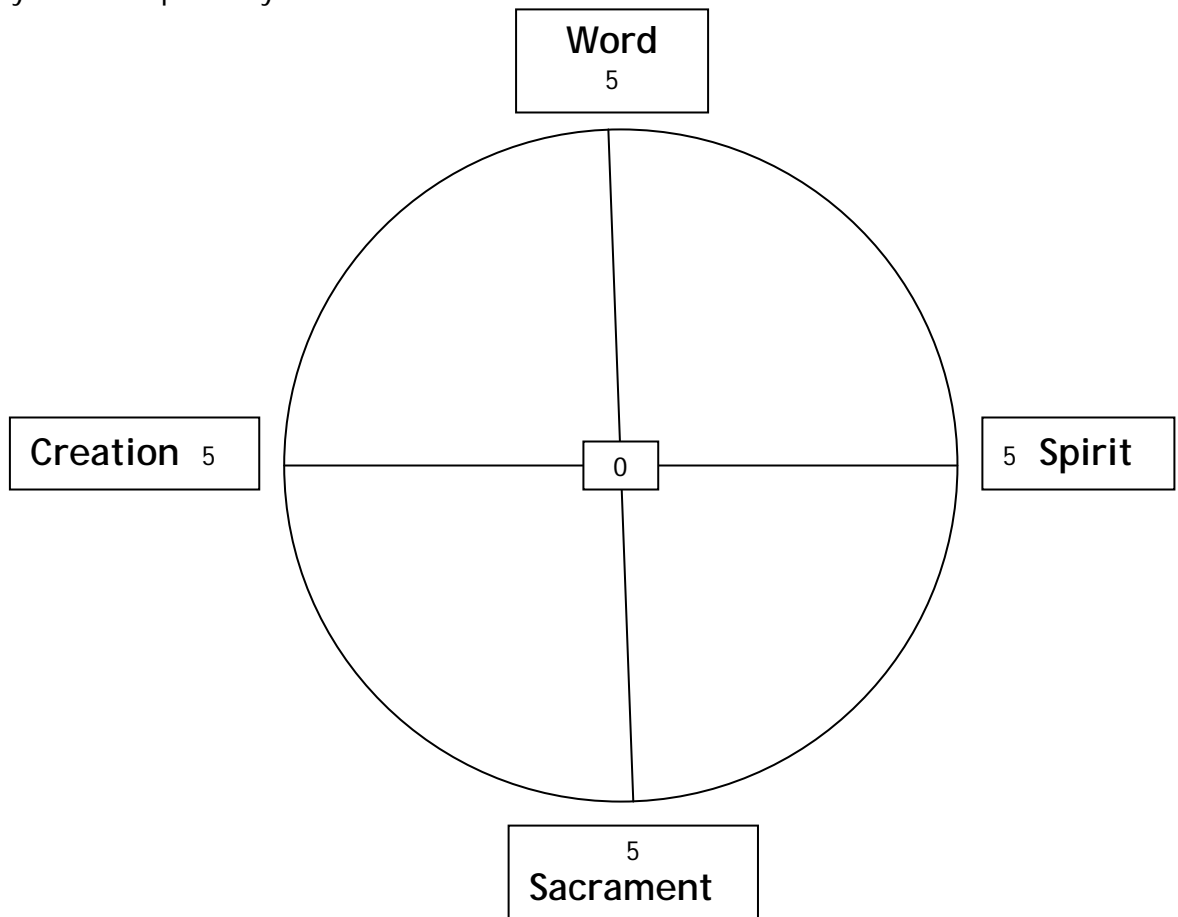
**Spirit** is the focus of the Pentecostal / charismatic tradition

**Sacraments** are the key to the Catholic / Orthodox understanding of faith

**Creation** expresses the focus of the faith of the Liberal tradition, including social action, use of reason and 'creation spirituality'.

Warren argues that churches need to be working to an 'enriched core' ie a spirituality that draws on each of these points of the compass.

Many churches probably have a combination.



**On your own** mark on the four lines - from 0 to 5 (strong) - where you think your church is. Then connect the lines.

**In your congregation group** discuss your picture and what it tells you about your church? Has there been an event / a service / or a time in your church's life in the past year which seemed significant for the 'spirituality' of your church?

**In groups of approximately five, each person from a different church** share your pictures and answers. What is interesting / attractive about these stories for you? Are there ways in which we might help enrich each other's spirituality?

## Spirituality Stories

In congregation groups

1. What energises people's faith in your congregation?
2. What season in the Christian year is your church most energised by? Why?

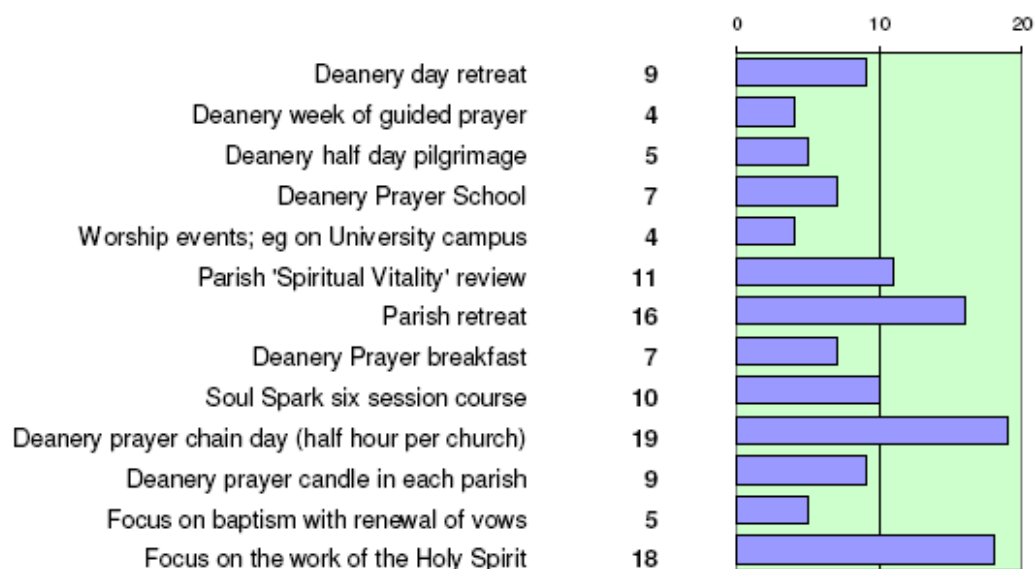
In groups of five from different churches

3. Share briefly your answers to 1 and 2
4. What do you find interesting / attractive about others' descriptions?
5. Looking at the analysis of Spiritual Vitality ideas provided by Ian Tarrant are there ways in which your reflections tonight could be joined up with anything in the list below?

## Spiritual vitality

Analysis of responses made at a meeting of Nottingham North & South Deaneries 20th November 2006

Members were asked to tick three out of 13 possible actions.



A few members added their own suggestions and comments, including the observations that good prayer, preaching and Bible study are essential for every parish; and some of the activities above could duplicate what is already done by ecumenical and other networks.

A couple of extra suggestions were made that would not be hard to implement:

- preparation of a Deanery map, with prayer intentions on the back (this would be useful, for example, in the prayer chain day proposed, but also at other times).
- offering opportunities to visit the 'best' worship of churches of different Anglican traditions in order to broaden mutual understanding and respect.