

Minutes of the joint meeting of

## Nottingham North and Nottingham South Deaneries

on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 19.30

at St John's Church, Graylands Road, Bilborough, Nottingham.

**Present:** 15 clerical and 38 lay members of Nottingham North and 17 clerical and 35 lay members of Nottingham South.

The meeting was chaired by Robert Cleave (Nottingham South).

**Members of General Synod:** Colin Slater.

**By invitation:** The Revd David McCoulough (Assistant Director, Partnerships),

**Apologies:** 3 clerical and 14 lay members of Nottingham North and 9 clerical and 15 lay members of Nottingham South.

### Gathering

Members assembled from 19.00 for refreshments. The meeting was opened by Robert Cleave who thanked The Revd Mandy Cartwright and the team for their hospitality. As some new members have joined Deanery Synod since the last meeting, they were welcomed and thanks were given to those retiring members.

### Opening act of worship

The Revd Mandy Cartwright led the group in an opening act of worship asking us to think about Columba, Abbot of Iona.

### Profile of St Mary's, Bulwell

The Revd Ruth Worsley introduced The Revd Andy Nicholls who is Parish Priest at St Mary's, Bulwell. He gave us a profile of St Mary's, Bulwell as being a white, non-transient population with the average age of a grandmother as 46. There is a high teenage pregnancy rate. When asked who might call at the vicarage, we were told that it might be drunks, the homeless, the mentally ill, people who rearrange his car. Andy explained that he had built up a resource folder with details of agencies that might help and support people who had these sorts of problems. He had discovered that accountability makes beds appear. Ruth encouraged people to talk further with Andy at the end.



### **Winter shelter/Social action survey**

The Revd David Jones then spoke about a winter shelter which is currently in the planning process. Whilst the agencies do what they can, there aren't always enough beds available during the worse months of the year. The shelter is open for 4 weeks during the winter (any longer needs planning permission). Thomas Helwys church, Lenton, hosts the shelter and 40/50 people came along the last time; people who would not have found a bed elsewhere. The statutory agencies aren't as flexible as this shelter might be. However they are co-operative and sympathetic when evidence of need is shown.

The shelter was run by 40 volunteers from churches across the city. It didn't happen last year because they had no-one to organise it and run it. Emmanuel House will be running it this year and they are hoping to run it in 2 places. This is an example of something that churches can do well and lots of it is going on in our deaneries.

### **Partnerships Update**

The Revd David McCoulough, Associate Director: Partnerships, explained that 18 months ago when he took over, little was known about what was going on with partnerships in the Diocese. He has visited City & County officials and tried to learn more of the activities happening in our Diocese.

David had collected some rough figures of some of the activities such as parents & toddlers, retired, refugees, conservation & groups meeting with other faiths. (Please see Appendix A at the end for the figures.)

And this is just the work of the Church of England. However, we are not very good at knowing what we are doing – of sharing the stories but we are doing a lot! We should be more confident and positive – we don't need to re-invent the wheel. The two Davids are a resource in the Diocese that we should be using. Persistence is the key word in working with partnerships even though it is hard work.

The Revd David Jones then went on to explain the launch of the Social Action Survey. A group of people have developed this survey, which will give us a better idea of what is happening in our churches. It is a self-explanatory form.

He quoted from Andrew Morrissey, "We need to be turning our Christianity into practical action to help others."

His survey will be sent out to each parish online. One survey for each activity undertaken will need to be completed. It can either be filled in online or by hand and posted.

Colin Slater commented that there is a lot of social action happening in our churches by individuals and if we fail to recognise this we miss something important.

David went on to say that as a survey this will only be a snapshot concentrating on what churches are doing at the moment.

The form will be sent out shortly with a deadline for completion and Deanery Synod Reps were asked to make sure that their PCC's were aware of this survey although it won't necessarily be the responsibility of the parish priest to complete it.

### **Presentation – How do we engage with the cultures of our communities?**

The Revd Nigel Rooms, Associate Director: Practical Theology opened up a presentation saying that we need to understand the cultures in which we live and move and have our being. The Revd Jean Lamb read Acts 17v16-28.

Nigel then went on to ask what God might be doing in our communities?

The Revd Dave Hammond, a priest in St Saviours in the Meadows explained a little of his work in the area. His job was all about trying to relate to that culture and making connections with it. He is a Pioneer Missioner looking at what God wants and what does the church want? They have had to confront the brutal facts that they have a small congregation which is declining. They can't get people into the church – if they do, it is only those in dire need. They have started to plant churches in people's homes, gyms, pubs, where they are at.

They have stopped doing Youth Work – even though youth work is needed they haven't the resources - instead they are doing children's work. Church for kids rather than clubs for kids.

(Although not shown at the meeting, Dave's slides which he made reference to in his presentation, are attached separately to this document.)

### **New Mission Post in Bilborough**

The Archdeacon has created a new mission post in Bilborough and The Revd Mandy Cartwright gave an overview of how that post will take shape. There are lots of schools and young people in Bilborough and the relationships are good with the church. Predecessors had built good foundations along with The Revd Jean Lamb who also does a lot of work in local schools. It is therefore felt the best use of this post is for someone to work with children. One of the key issues they want to address is that you don't need to go out of Bilborough to have a good job and a good life. They also want people to know that this is their church. They are still at the discerning stage and need to sort out a job description but it is progressing with joint ownership of the project between the school and the church.

### **The Revd Nigel Rooms continued:**

Having heard from Mandy, he asked the meeting to consider, "How do we engage in the culture of our communities?" He invited members to discuss this with the people around them and feedback was then collected:

"Mission is about building relationships"

"Go out and listen"

"Awareness"

"Not a case of how but where we engage."

"Trying to discern where God is working in your community and join in"

"Join together in the mission of God."

"God is already at work in the world; our task is to find out where and join in."

"How do we do this, as it's not always easy?"

Nigel then told a story of searching for the temple to the unknown God in a given area and then asked members to consider where the temple to the unknown God is in their community?

Feedback:

Restaurants / Eating	Bingo Halls	Online dating & gambling
Leisure Centres	Ikea	Plasma TV's
Schools	Dog walking	Farmers market
Football crowds in the Meadows	Cemeteries/Anccestor worship	Attenborough Nature Reserve
Horoscopes/Astrology	Sport	Groups of people on street corners
Workplaces	Face book, MSN, Twitter	Shops

Nigel then went on to explain a little of Fresh Expressions, being a form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church.

For further info – visit [www.freshexpressions.org.uk](http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk) ; [www.sharetheguide.org](http://www.sharetheguide.org)

## Notices

### **Joint Lay Chair for Nottingham South Deanery vacancy**

Robert Cleave asked people to consider standing for this post to mirror the job done in Nottingham North. They will be elected at the next Deanery Synod meeting in October. Please speak to Ruth or Robert if anyone has any questions about this post.

### **Clergy Pensions Meeting**

Reminders were given for these meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> June & 7<sup>th</sup> July for laity and 8<sup>th</sup> July for clergy.

### **Deanery Website**

[www.nottinghamdeaneries.org](http://www.nottinghamdeaneries.org)

### **New members**

Requests for new members and anyone not receiving e-mails who would like to receive them, to make sure they let Rachel in the office know their e-mail address. There had been one or two problems with the take over from the previous administrator as the records were not in a database which was easily transferable.

### **Deanery Resource Forms**

Anne Walters reminded people to fill these in and return to the office.

### **Christy**

Christy shared his news that he has received his official papers stating that he can now live freely in the UK.

### **Licensing – The Revd Alyn Haskey**

Ruth reminded us of the licensing of Alyn to St Christopher's as Diocesan Evangelist on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm.

### **Recycling**

Ian Park gave us some information regarding recycling which will be published on the website and e-mailed to members.

The Revd Jerry Lepine closed the meeting with an act of worship.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

**Appendix A (Ref: page 2)****Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham****Results for parishes in Nottinghamshire City Council area from 2005**

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|--|----|
| 1. Offered by parish church to wider community                                 |    |
| • Hall/room to let   | 21 |
| • Social Events  | 20 |
| • Toddler/Play Group   | 14 |
| • Activities for the retired   | 12 |
| <br>   |    |
| 2. Parishes offering (alone or in partnership) practical help to:              |    |
| • Housebound people  | 11 |
| • Carers   | 2  |
| • Homeless people  | 5  |
| • Refugees/Asylum seekers  | 4  |
| • Prisoner/former prisoners  | 5  |
| • People with drug/alcohol problems  | 2  |
| <br>   |    |
| 3. Parishes involved in partnerships addressing the following issues locally.  |    |
| • Fairtrade/World Development  | 16 |
| • Healthcare/Healthy living  | 4  |
| • Community Transport  | 1  |
| • Crime Prevention/Community safety  | 6  |
| • Conservation/recycling   | 7  |
| • Meeting/understanding people of other faiths                                 | 6  |
| <br>   |    |
| 4. Are you involved in any other kind of social outreach or community service? | 16 |
| 5. Would you like help to be more involved?                                    | 5  |