

Minutes of the joint meeting of

## Nottingham North and Nottingham South Deaneries

on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 19.30

at St Martin's Church, Sherwood, Nottingham.

**Present:** 15 clerical and 36 lay members of Nottingham North and 9 clerical and 29 lay members of Nottingham South.

The meeting was chaired by Anne Walters (Joint Lay Chair Nottingham North).



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

**Apologies:** 8 clerical and 7 lay members of Nottingham North and 16 clerical and 14 lay members of Nottingham South.

### Gathering

Members assembled from 19.00 for refreshments. Just before the meeting started, members were asked to fill in post-it notes answering the questions:

*The new deaneries - one year on – how is it going? What are we doing well and not so well? Please write down: One thing you've appreciated & one thing that could be improved. (See end for answers)*

The meeting was opened by Anne Walters who thanked The Revd Sylvia Griffiths and the team for their hospitality. Apologies had been received from Robert Cleave and prayers were asked for Peter Munro who had just undergone hip surgery. Laurie Crawforth was announced as the new joint lay chair for Nottingham South and welcomed to that post.

Bishop Tony and Bishop Rubin were also welcomed. Bishop Rubin was congratulated on his peace prize which has been awarded from the category of public engagement to justice and peace.

### Opening act of worship

This was led by The Revd Sylvia Griffiths who shared with us a story about joy and the music group led us in some choruses.

## The Ministry of welcome

Anne began the evening by asking how we can reflect God's generosity and offer welcome to those who come into our churches and asking us to look at where mission opportunities lie. We all need new skills to help integrate newcomers.

A new book and DVD called 'Everybody's Welcome' was introduced. The deanery office has a copy as a deanery resource and is available on loan – if you would like to borrow them, please get in touch with Rachel in the office.

A YouTube clip was shown highlighting a lighter message of welcome but with a serious message behind it. (Link – What if Starbucks marketed like a church? A parable.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7\\_dZTrjw9I&feature=Playlist&p=F217F7D46175FC33&playnext=1&playnext\\_from=PL&index=23](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7_dZTrjw9I&feature=Playlist&p=F217F7D46175FC33&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=23))

### 1. Resources Booklet

Anne asked if each parish could pick up a draft copy of the deanery resource booklet – firstly to check that the entry for their respective church is correct; *or* to see whether there is an entry for your church and finally for a contact person (other than the vicar) to be inserted – details to be sent to the deanery office. If you responded to the survey, we need you to affirm your offers - we know personnel change. If you haven't done before, please put it on your PCC agenda, discuss it and let the deanery office have the details.

Anne talked further about the need to share resources, good practice and tapping into mission which has been successful.

### 2. 'Back to Church'

Ruth and Jerry then asked for experiences of 'Back to Church Sunday' from the floor.

**St Leonard's, Wollaton** held a service in October – they weren't overwhelmed by the rush but one person came back at the end of the service and said she was coming back.

**St Martin's, Bilborough** invited people to their normal morning Eucharist and afternoon tea followed by an evening service which was new. There were a few people at both, some new ones, some who did come back and others who came back to the Harvest Festival service.

St John's, Beeston had 60 additional people to their normal numbers – they didn't do anything really special, just invited people back.

Bishop Tony said that he had been at Worksop Priory and Christchurch, Worksop – he had shared a couple of stories and preached and someone had given their life to Christ.

### 3. Colin Slater

Colin then gave a report on the 'Giving for Life' report which had been shared and approved unanimously at Diocesan Synod recently.

The report is about encouraging generosity in your parish.

Colin read the opening paragraph from this report and hoped that it will be taken up across the diocese. The study day in 2010 for all clergy and readers will be on Thursday 4th March at the John Godber Centre, Hucknall and Bishop Paul will be leading the day.

There will be two briefing sessions for treasurers, churchwardens and deanery synod members on either -

Saturday 20th February – St Pauls, Wilford Hill

Saturday 20th March at Ollerton

Colin outlined the good practices in the leaflet and explained that PCC and home groups are invited to work through a series of questions in the booklet.

He commended it to parishes for urgent study and action. He had been so moved by the contents that he had re-evaluated his own personal giving.

### 4. Budget for 2010

Received and approved by Diocesan Synod on Saturday 17th October 2009

It makes no provision for any increase in clergy or lay salaries next year. There is no financial increase in the budget compared to 2009. Support for deanery leadership will continue.

Some costs are outside the control of the diocese – clergy pension costs being one of them as a statutory obligation – the increase next year is £170 000 which will lift the total contribution to 1.4m which is just under 25% of the share from all parishes.

As a 3% increase was deemed unacceptable, the decision has been made to use some diocesan assets to restrict the increase to 1%. There are some quite large swings – some will reduce and some will be asked to meet an increase of up to 8%. Given the break-even nature of the budget the diocese now requires each parish to pay 100% of its parish share. If we don't, then we shall face a diocesan deficit. If this is tiny we may be able to bear it through economies but we will face cuts if it is a large deficit.

We need generous giving and generous spirit as we face this in the coming year.

Jerry explained that there is a treasurers meeting on November 11th where these figures will be discussed in more detail.

### **The Bishop of Sherwood, The Rt Revd Tony Porter**

Luke chapter 19: 1-10 was read (The story of Zaccheus).

Bishop Tony then spoke about Zaccheus and linked this to the theme of hospitality and welcome. He highlighted that if we are busy, we should never be too busy for people. Jesus was never too busy. Welcome is not about techniques.

Welcome is about hospitality and getting inside people's homes is important - visiting. Jesus dined with people. He talked about the importance of eating together. We are called to be in the world – mix outside the walls of the church. The fruit is salvation. As Christians we may be misunderstood but it is our duty to be there. Worship is important alongside this.

Bishop Tony offered to come to any parish for the weekend – as an evangelist. He needs our prayers. As a Bishop he is doing it rather than just talking about it. One condition is that the parish does a beginners course such as Alpha or Emmaus afterwards. The request needs to come through the Area Deans and the other churches must pray for him.

#### 5. Group discussion & feedback

Jerry then introduced the following questions asking people to get into groups to discuss:

- How can we make sure we are not too busy for people, particularly family and friends who are not Christians?
- How can we be hospitable?

- How can we be hospitable in the four areas of outreach mentioned in Mission Priority 7
- What assistance / extra resources would be really helpful for us in taking forward Mission Priorities 2 and 7?

Groups were asked to write down an answer to Question 4 plus any question that they would like to ask the Bishops coming out of the address and discussion. *(See end for answers)*

#### 6. Bishop Rubin Phillip, KwaZulu-Natal

Bishop Rubin spoke to the group sending his greetings and talking a little about welcome in his diocese. They had taken the decision to move out of a maintenance mode and to grow. Following this decision it became obvious that they would need the personnel to meet those aims and objectives and for this they would need a vicar in each parish – they don't have as many as we do. In 95% of their parishes they have a full time vicar. Where did the money come from? They challenged the parishes saying that if we are serious about this we are going to have to dig deep. Every parish made the decision to give despite the fact that everything is very expensive in South Africa.

Jerry then asked for any questions for our bishops in the light of what we have been discussing.

1. Bishop Rubin – what is the difference between the welcome here and in Kwazulu-Natal?

Answer – although there are a number of languages in SA, the 2 principle languages are English & Zulu. In the peace where we reply, "and also with you" - in Natal they say – "may it make the peace spread among the people".

He shared a story about hospitality given to him where a sheep had been presented to him. Bishop Tony couldn't say that he had ever been offered a sheep!

He told us that we may receive an angel if you reach out to the stranger.

2. Following on from Bishop Tony's statement that welcome wasn't about techniques, it was asked 'Is there really no technique that can be learned?'

Answer – if there is no love there can be no true welcome.

## Notices

- ✚ Please note the change of Deanery Synod meeting in February – now Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- ✚ Bishop Paul's visits to the Deanery were also highlighted - Nottingham North, Wednesday 5th May 7.30pm, St Leonard's Community Centre, Wollaton and Nottingham South, Thursday 13th May 7.30pm, venue to be agreed.
- ✚ There will be a 'Welcome Service' for the whole archdeaconry on 7th March, 4.00pm in St Mary's, The Lace Market, Nottm. Everyone was encouraged to cancel their evening services and join in with this service.
- ✚ Keep looking at the website and checking for new information.
- ✚ City of Sanctuary, November 7th – please come and along and support this initiative.
- ✚ 11th November – Clergy & Treasurers meeting, looking at finance matters in more detail.
- ✚ Revd Barbara Neill and Revd David Jones are retiring – best wishes were sent to them.
- ✚ Licensing of Revd Alan Howe, Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>, 7.00pm, St Barnabas Church, Lenton Abbey – all are welcome. Jenny Corcoran will taking a greater part in looking after this church.
- ✚ Revd Barbara Holbrook (as the Diocesan Link officer) invited all to her church this weekend for tea and to come and meet Bishop Rubin.
- ✚ 6th December, Christian Aid Carol Service at St Peters - an exploration of spirituality.

## Closing

Bishop Rubin closed the meeting at 9.30pm with a blessing in Zulu and English.

### Deanery Office contact details:

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## Appendix:

## Responses from post-it notes

- Good
  - Tight organisation time-wise of meetings
- Bad
  - Purely personal, lack of communication of information about meetings etc. Since realised I have to go onto website.

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- Meetings shouldn't be held same week as Ash Wednesday – this has happened for last 2 years.
 

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- Many of our congregation say "I will not give more money – it just goes to those people @ Southwell! They waste money!" So please be more transparent and share the facts about the expenditure @ Dunham House & Southwell in particular.
 

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- I was enthused by Colin's address on generous giving
- Good to meet as 2 deaneries in one! Good range of experiences etc themes good.

## Flip chart paper responses

- 1) Non Christians – not too busy – low?
  - share workload
  - we're not too busy – they're everywhere
  - offer to help out
  - schedule people in /plan for non-Christian time
  - a lobby outside the church
- 3) Hospitable – low
  - a) church leavers
    - Remain accessible, keep in contact
    - Remain friends
  - b) those searching for spirituality
    - gently re-align
    - understand their drive / search for...
    - ensure they know you are listening and want to listen.
    - help to name their feelings
  - c) teenagers to 35
  - d) men

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Valuing each other's time and the time we share (being fully present to one another)

Making opportunities to be available

Making people feel important to us

Taking opportunities when they arise

Don't make unnecessary demands on others – so they can take opportunities – share the load – every member ministry.

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Less is more

To enable change you need to stop some present activities

Be responsive to the community's changing needs and new culture

E.g. Pizza and praise (Young families)

Tea and Toast (10pm- 3am) for late night revellers

How can Deanery help?

1. Share musical talents
2. Share good ideas

#### Resources

- Visit by Bishop Tony for weekend
- Support for people to be active outside the church to build understanding of life outside
- Better church doors and signs

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Getting the balance between family and the church

Sharing the load of hospitality

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- 1) Learn to say no

Keep track of what you fill your time with

- 2) Share and care for each other
- 3) Mens group - meeting to share fellowship

- Encourage non – Christians
- Get together for sporting activities

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1. Listening – church activities can squeeze out families for time / clergy have involved people in too much / pamper believers

\*could cancel services to free up time

\*within busyness create accessible events for friends and family – make inclusive

Learn to say no

“Sunday off” give permission

Be intentional.....

2. Food for men / young people  
Offering social life for community  
Men – food not in church – pub  
Discos.... Open house vicarage  
Quiz nights

3. Learn and remember names....it values people  
Acknowledging people

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Taking time during social gatherings to connect i.e. birthdays, weddings, funerals & baptisms.

Taking and making the opportunity to share our faith

1. Follow up; home visit
  - Welcome visits to baptism / weddings/ funeral families
  - Through school / work contact
  - Street cred
  - Social evenings with meals – themed fun evenings
  - Dad and toddlers group
  - Mens breakfast
  - Live music / more musicians
  - Help opportunities / facilitating in how to share our faith / witness

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1. Make them a higher priority
2. Relevant outreach
  - Drop in lunch
  - Coffee shop
  - Dads & toddlers
  - Care for the community “outside the church”
  - Personal invitations
  - word of mouth
  - Community notice board
  - Special events free of charge!

3. We need –  
 More faith  
 finance  
 teamwork  
 vision and enthusiasm & commitment  
 training  
 support  
 to be open to one another  
 to share gifts and resources

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Dads and toddlers at St Leonards  
 Mens groups/ breakfast

For spiritual seekers :  
 advertisement of Alpha etc

- Extending hospitality outwards
- Drinks giveaway in country park
  - - coffee room outreach in city centre
  - Walking group

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- Maintaining contact within families
- Doing jobs/ lending/ borrowing tools " bonding over the ladder"
- Friendship clubs – meals
- Concerts
- "open church" time
- Travelling – people around
- "snack and chat" on estates
- Using halls + facilities
- Drop in centre
- Residential homes

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Always be prepared to listen  
 Make time  
 Open to opinions  
 Listen not talk  
 Make conversation  
 Empathy  
 Don't take on too much – church meetings  
 Accept people for who they are  
 Cup of tea/ meal  
 Smile, say hello as you pass strangers  
 Allowing ourselves to be vulnerable (out of comfort zone)