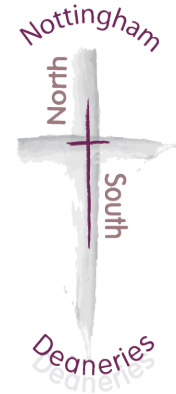


Minutes of the joint meeting of

Nottingham North and Nottingham South Deaneries

on Thursday 6th October 2011 at 19.30

held at St Mark's church, Bestwood, Nottingham.



Present: **South** 11 clerical and 27 lay members.

(out of possible attendance – 35 clerical;55 lay)

North 13 clerical and 27 lay members.

(out of possible attendance – 23 clerical;45 lay)

Apologies: **South** 5 clerical and 5 lay members.

North 2 clerical and 5 lay members.

The meeting was chaired by the Lay Chairs.

Welcome & Prayers

Anne Walters opened the meeting and thanked the Revd Elizabeth Snowden and the Bestwood team for the refreshments and the arrangements for the evening.

New members were welcomed and hope was expressed that they would begin to understand what being a deanery synod member might mean for the next three years. We act as links between parish and Diocese.

Congratulations to the Revd Alan Howe who has been made an honorary Canon of Southwell Minister.

Welcome to newly ordained curates, Margaret Gallagher, Peter Gilroy, Brenda Stevenson & Sonia Barron, and also new licensed lay workers Susan Broomfield, Outreach Worker in the Deaf Community; and Chris Easton as Community Minister for the Bestwood 6 Churches.

Bishop Paul was warmly welcomed together with Nick Harding, who had come to report on General Synod and Church History.

The worship team from Bestwood, St Marks lead us in praise and prayer.

Peter Munro thanked Kirsty, Greg and Jack for this.

Deanery Leadership Team election results.

Before the Commissioning of the Deanery Leadership Team by the Bishop, Peter wanted to highlight a couple of points. There was no election this time because no-one was nominated. The people who were already in post were the only people who were nominated. This is fine and they are happy about this but in three years time, things will need to change and you need to find some new leaders to take both deaneries forward. Some thought needs to be given to this sooner rather than later.

Also Nottingham North needs a treasurer. It isn't an over burdensome role. There are three people looking after this role at the moment but it needs one dedicated person.

The team was then prayed for by the Bishop -

Nottm South -The Revd Jonathan MacGillivray, Laurie Crawforth, Robert Cleave, The Revd Canon Alan Howe, Hugh Allton,

Nottm North - The Revd Canon Jerry Lepine, Anne Walters, Peter Munro, Jon Hutchinson, Andrea Russell (not present) & Rachel Shock.

Notices

Anne Walters gave thanks for the newsletter. She explained that emails from the deanery office were not meant for private consumption but to be shared among the church congregations.

We also recognise that due to the size of our deaneries, some deanery synod meetings inevitably end up being a distance to drive. Please try and offer lifts (car-sharing) to one another but if anyone is having trouble getting to a meeting, please contact Rachel in the office who will gladly help with finding transport.

A couple of items from the newsletter (which can be downloaded from the [deanery website](#)) were highlighted -

Healing on the Streets Team & Marie Curie, volunteers needed; Welcome Project at Hyson Green is looking for mentors and advisers; there is training available. Opportunities for personal development and an invitation from the School of Disciples, to join them for their public lectures; Deaf awareness training and/or advice; Lay leaders network support group, retreat at Sacrista Prebend; Southwell Minster Pilgrimage for Nottingham North members & a pilgrimage to Greece in 2012 with Sylvia Griffiths. Please join us for the Advent Study day with Paula Gooder (please book with Rachel, in the office). £10 fee now includes lunch.

There were two updates: fabric forum. At a meeting with the police – (notes coming out very soon) - if you have a computer, please log on to '[Nottinghamshire Alert](#)' and register. (See 'Links' page on Deaneries website). This is a neighbourhood scheme which allows us to show concern for our communities and churches. In a raid last week, three lots of lead have been found; one from Bilborough, one from Newark.

Food banks – Hope Cafe, Beeston who have operated a food bank for a time now, have joined the [Trussell Trust](#), and we pray they can succeed. At a meeting last night, a decision was made to go ahead with another food bank, a central store with satellite points in the Bulwell and Bestwood areas. There is a small group meeting next week to plan for next stage. There is a need to get this up and running before the winter. Pleas for help will be advertised, so please respond.

National deaneries network, handout distributed. (Further copies available from deanery office.)

Deanery Finance

Robert Cleave, Joint Lay Chair, Nottingham South & Chair of joint deaneries finance group.

Robert gave some information regarding the joining together in funding the transforming mission of God.

Updates - payments of parish share, Nottingham North has made great progress in its payment of share and this has been maintained this year. At this time last year, Nottingham North had paid 58.4%; they have paid 3% more so far this year, 61.5 %. This time last year Nottingham South had paid 70.8%; this has dropped to 68.2% but there is no need to worry, as one large parish which hasn't paid its entire share as yet and is confident that it will. It has just taken out a Diocesan loan and one of the requirements is full payment of parish share.

It's an encouraging picture in both deaneries as far as Parish Share goes this year.

Looking to Parish Share next year, the Finance team met last week and looked at apportionment of share given by the Diocese and figures went out to parishes last week. They realise times are difficult and they couldn't do as much as they would have liked. They have asked parishes to consider to volunteer any extra payments and St Saviour's in the Meadows have already volunteered to contribute an extra amount. This example should be both an encouragement and a challenge to us all.

The finance team work out our share together across the two deaneries and they have just started visiting parishes and the parish team, to better understand their financial situation and how we might be more supportive. In the couple of parishes that this has happened, this has been a very valuable exercise and they will be looking to do more of that in the New Year.

General Synod update

Laurie Crawforth welcomed Nick Harding to give a General Synod update and some information on the Church History Project.

Nick Harding – is for the next four and a half years our link for General Synod. Nick is also Children's Ministry Advisor for the Diocese plus the CRB man for the Diocese.

The report, which can be found on the website, is his own personal report with his slant on issues. Please do contact Nick (nick@southwell.anglican.org) if you have any questions. His personal highlights included Bishop Paul who led a debate and proposed an action plan to produce mission plans.

Other highlights were the debate and working with the Methodists; sending for revision some child friendly Eucharistic prayers - it will be a while yet until they appear though. Also recognition of the work that the Church of England has done nationally with Education; 200 years of work of the National Society, in our diocese there are some really good church schools.

Please get in touch with Nick if there are any questions.

Church History Project

Nick is also the Manager of the [Church History Project](#) which is really growing in the Diocese. It grew out of the DAC wanting to get the full history of the churches together. This information used to be kept in ring binders but now there is an excellent website with the full histories of the 103 churches in the Diocese. The aim is to get a full academic history on the website. Second is tourism – they have trails; stained glass and Robin Hood. Also some churches have benefited from having leaflets produced by the CHP team. If you would like some leaflets produced, please get in touch with Heather in the team, (heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org) to see whether they can help your church with this. And finally, education; they want churches to be places of education where children come and can be excited by what they see. They want to resource each church with tried and tested materials with resources – an education pack, aimed at primary schools, is provided for each school. Contact Heather if you didn't pick up your pack. There are additional resources available on the website plus a DVD is being filmed on the life of the church to use in association with this.

Bishop Paul

Laurie thanked Nick for his presentation and introduced Bishop Paul.

Bishop Paul started by giving a brief outline of the Diocesan Vision - One of the difficulties is that some have heard the original presentation before but a

few haven't. Bishop Paul gave a brief overview of the new strapline, 'Joining together in the transforming mission of God.' Change is about transformation - God being in the business of transforming people. The really risky thing about this is that we are not joining in so that other people might be transformed but joining in so that we might be transformed and be the people He wants us to be, so that the world might be transformed. If we take it seriously, we get changed, radically. This is to be worked out in three strands, in 'Living Worship', 'Growing Disciples' and 'Seeking Justice.'

Joining with God is not our mission; it is God's mission. God, who is in the business of constantly reaching out to the whole of his creation with his love and his grace and transforming us. He invites us to join in with His mission. Secondly, we aren't called to do this by ourselves but across our parishes. We are also called to do this across our deaneries. Deaneries have a key role to play in taking this whole thing forward. We can't do this on our own. We also join together across the Diocese as a whole.

Here is one of the slight dangers - we've lived with parochialism for a very long time and there is a slight danger that we will develop deaneryism. We need to avoid that danger just as much as parochialism. We belong to a whole Diocese and one of my jobs is how we keep the mission across everything. We don't do this alone as the Church of England. We join with fellow Christians whether they be our traditional partners or the newer partners like the black churches. We join with whoever names the name of Christ and wants to join in the vision. We should be willing to join. We will join with partners locally, regionally and globally. We will seek to take our link with Natal forward and encourage new links with Burundi and Palestine/Israel. We have visitors coming from Palestine and Jordan soon. The Bishop is taking a group of people out to Burundi next year to see how that link might unfold.

The three strands need to be thought of like an image of a rope. They weave in and out of each other because you can't talk about these three disciplines individually. They are completely interwoven, they feed off each other; they are more like a rope.

Living Worship whether, high, free or middle needs to be vibrant, authentic, faithful, creative, about the whole of life; it needs to be centred on word and sacrament working in harmony together and being generous.

Growing disciples is about seeing more people become followers of Jesus and seeing all of us become more humbly confident in their faith. Those of us who are already followers, need to be constantly growing and developing and need to be more confident in the faith that we hold. This will come out of our joining together. It is about seeking justice for all both locally and globally.

It doesn't mean that the Diocese will be the leading player in all these areas. In education we will be the lead player as we have oversight of schools. On some of the other issues we may be a partner with other agencies who lead on it. We will join with local authorities, charities and health care providers on working on these issues.

What has happened to the old stuff – they are still there as the values that undergird the new. If we think of the image of a raft - it doesn't float unless you have the barrels underneath. It is about the journey which God takes us on; sometimes going round in circles, becalmed and coming across the rapids. Sometimes you may fall off but you can remake them and get back on the journey. God invites you to join in His journey; we don't know where it's heading, sometimes at a gentle pace and sometimes rushing on.

So the question is, 'How does this work out in deaneries and parishes?' We have four questions – see below. The priority is – 'What do we have to stop doing in order to concentrate on.'

The synod broke into groups within the separate deaneries to consider Bishop Paul's questions.

After joining together again, the Bishop gave a few points of feedback.

He thanked everyone for engaging with the question which he found encouraging. His second reflection was that relationships are important - people come to faith and grow in faith through relationships. It appears that people are not afraid of making priorities.

There are lots of leaflets with a summary of 'Joining together' available from Rachel Farmer to hand out to people. Nigel Rooms has put together material for a Lent course based on the three disciplines, each lasting for 6 weeks. You don't need to use all at the same time. They will be available for Lent next year.

Closing

The Bishop closed the meeting with a blessing

The next meeting will be held on:

Nottingham North: Tuesday 7th February 2012

Nottingham South: Thursday 9th February 2012

Please check the website nearer the time for details of the location.

Bishop Paul's questions:

1. What 'joining together' as a Deanery/within the Deanery would be valuable in the next years in helping us all engage in God's transforming mission? What about ecumenical and inter-faith joining together?
2. Are there particular issues of justice in our neighbourhoods/across the city in which we should engage in these next years? If there was one priority, what would it be?
3. In growing disciples - Are there any specific evangelistic programmes/events we should be developing?
In what ways can we grow 'humble confidence' in our disciples?
4. In Living Worship - How do we each develop and worship in its authenticity and its liveliness true to our particular Anglican style?
How do we encourage one another's worship across our diversity?

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