

Ecclesfield Deanery Synod - Minutes of Meeting

Date of Meeting: Thursday 16th July 2009
Location: St Matthias Stocksbridge Church
Duration: 7pm to 9:15pm
Chair: Kath Lonsborough – Lay Chair of Synod
Present:

Clergy: Catherine Barnard / Ian Duffield / Sue Hammersley / David Jeans / Julian Mann / Louise Collins / Patricia Impey / Alan Isaacson / Hilda Isaacson / Martin Kilner / Ed Mitchell / Phil Warman / Keith Ryder-West / Richard Gomersall / Martyn Snow

Laity: Kath Allot / Patricia Bancroft / Peter Blakemore / Margaret Bryan / Pat Clarke / Mary Croft / Nellie Clarke / Margaret Derbyshire / Carmen Franklin / Jane George / Michael George / Shirley Glossop / Beryl Hanson / John Hayes / Graham Helliwell / Carol Khawaja / Margaret Mellor / Jean Panniker / Jane Perry / Norma Priest / Cheryl Shaw / Anne Shaw / Gill Swift / Michael White / Mary White

Warden: Brenda Farrar / Alwyne Hill / Geoffrey Littlewood / Tommy Proctor / Audrey Sidebottom / Tony Watkinson / Frank Cutts

Visitors: Philip Bowden (ordinand) / Alan Greaves (St Saviour) / John Mellor (St Peters) / John Daniels (Ecclesfield) / Janet Law (St James/St Christopher) / Doris Proctor (St James/St Christopher)

Apologies:

Clergy: Kevin Barnard / Rick Stordy / Ian Smith
Laity: Dorothy Gilbert / Shirley Glossop / Lionel Heafield / Peter Jubb / Andrew White
Wardens: Ann Hackett / Mel Homer / Jonathan Lang / Katherine Helliwell

Item	Action
<p>1. Opening Worship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening prayers and worship led by Katherine Barnard 	
<p>2. Welcome Introductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MS welcomed Synod, thanked all for attending and St Matthias for hosting the Synod. 	
<p>3. a) Minutes of Last Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Deanery Synod elections were not required as the number of nomination were less than the place available. ● Results: House of Clergy: Martyn Snow / Ian Smith / Ed Mitchell / Richard Gomersall / Kevin Barnard / David Jeans House of Laity : Andrew White / Katherine Lonsborough ● Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record by Synod. ● Proposed by: none Seconded: none 	
<p>b) Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KL - no matters arising. 	
<p>4. Focus on Mission: Martin Kilner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MK – Handout distributed to Synod ● MK – Reported to Synod on his visit to different PCCs in the Deanery and his reflections to date. ● MK – Reported back on the Children and Young People’s Conference held on the Saturday 11th July around the five themes – Networking / Strategy / Projects / Everyday Life / Training. ● Training: Identifying Training Needs for individual workers and also include spiritual needs – how church community show care ● Strategy: Use of the Child Friendly Church tool to help a church think though its work. ● Everyday Life: Use of questionnaire encouraged to find out what local schools need from a church community. ● Projects: Age range of teens-thirties very hard to engage that group. ● MK – Then outlined the priority to: 1. the networking of C+YP workers in the Deanery / 2. Care of C+YP workers by clergy and PCC. ● MK – Encouraged the Synod to be praying for people to come forward to lead on the five themes of the report. ● Questions / Comments: ‘Conference well organised’ / ‘ One participant came away excited’ / ‘Sharing of experience/resources and networking seems more workable in a Deanery than across a Diocese’ 	

<p>5. Focus on Leadership: David Jeans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handout distributed to Synod • DJ – Outlined the pilot ‘Growing Leaders’ course - the syllabus and participant requirements that is to be held at St Saviours from September 2009 – June 2010. Encouraged churches to discern who it may be of value to attend in their church community rather than advertise widely. Currently approx. 12 spaces available. Maximum number of participants is 24. • DJ – Asked clergy to consider suggesting people who could serve as mentors on the course – 2hr / month and training session, sessions are structured. • DJ – Is currently evaluating the ‘Growing Leaders’ course for 14-18 year olds – are church communities giving responsibility early enough to help retain Young Peoples interest. 	<p>Note Clergy</p>
<p>6. Focus on Teamworking: Martyn Snow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Paper ‘ Mission Cluster in Ecclesfield Deanery’ distributed to Synod - principles taken from book: Butler, P. <i>Well Connected</i>. (Milton Keynes: Authentic, 2006). • MS – Presented the two papers to Synod (distributed prior) before discussing the papers in groups. • MS – Introduced the Bishop’s Commission Paper to Synod before discussing in groups. • Feedback: • <i>Group 1: Julian Mann</i> • Welcomed initiative and that +Steven getting a grip on the situation as the Deanery has no legal status or powers to make changes that can only come from Diocese. Having external resources would be good for parish based ministry and allow for clusters/twinning outside the Deanery. See as a significant act of leadership by +Steven and a departure from the previous Bishop of Sheffield. Need to pray and support +Steven in his ministry as a missionary Bishop. • Additional Comment – Geoff Littlewood – Hope a lay person from each church affected would be on the Commission. • MS – Would lead to a rather large number of people • <i>Group 2: Richard Gomersall</i> • Clustering – yes see group 3 are all in an area of 70k people. In clustering ‘successful’ church with high attendance with ones that have lower attendance could lead to a demoralising situation. In mixing churches of different maturity can lead to growth for all involved. Are contiguous relationships required? • <i>Group 3: Carmen Franklin</i> • Group pleased to see Commission – need to consult with all clergy and lay people in affected parishes – concern that people are not spoken to. Concerned at the short timescale proposed to be able to speak to all involved. Need people from Parishes involved but not too many as they will argue! • <i>Group 4: Graham Helliwell</i> • Could the churches in group 3 rather than cluster themselves, relate to the churches in other clusters / be adopted by these churches? • <i>Group 5: Louise Collins</i> • Cluster 3 people feel in area still declined, dirty, down which affect way feel about oneself. • Three things for membership of Bishop Commission: a) Maintain Ecumenical Partnerships b) Involve other churches – small, black, international c) Involve current Parson Cross Collaboration. • Additional Comment – Phil Warman – What about the role/place of prayer in the process? • <i>Group 6: Michael George</i> • Been involved at St Cecilia’s for 35 years - welcomes the Bishops Commission for a different and better future. Has seen and experienced the decline on the estate – need a new future. Parson Cross Collaboration is a good place to start with the commonality in past. Wider social issues are racism and hostility – the ‘White poor’ and no ethnic diversity. • <i>Group 7: Visitor</i> • St James and Christopher in a diverse estate – housing and ethnicity which is changing very quickly. Do not think people will be willing to travel between churches as poor public transport. • <i>Group 8: Peter Blakemore</i> • A lot has been done in the past between the churches in cluster 3 which has stopped. If church come together with numbers of people success breeds success. The process ahead may be hard 	

and painful like birth. In Stocksbridge Valley see church working together well.

- *Group 9: Ian Duffield*
- 1. Cluster 3 does not fit the previous paper about clusters starting small – is it right for 6 churches together?
- 2. Commission is to look at whole area in cluster 3 – in ID view could split into the High Road (Parson Cross / Southey / Longley / Flowers / ...) and Low Road (Pitsmoor / Ellesmere / Brightside and Wincobank). Must also be aware of geographical and socio-cultural-economic diversity which is very subtle. Need to look at viable sizes.
- 3. Concern of ID – Commission needs someone who understands the reality of the ministry challenge of the gospel in this area from their own experience.
- 4. The church's reach more people in the local community that the statistics make clear.
- Additional Comment – Ed Mitchell – No incumbent in a UPA should work on their own – should have a curate or evangelist.
- *Group 10: David Jeans*
- Referring to the Partnership Paper – one church may share a common interest in one area with another church, but another shared interested around an activity with a different church.
- Co-operation between churches an important thing.
- Not want to lose the experience and wisdom of the churches in other clusters.
- Group generally welcome the Commission and encouraged that +Steven wants to engage this early in his ministry.
- MS – To feed anything else into the process please contact Martyn Snow as soon as possible as he needs to write to +Steven early next week. Generally hearing from Synod: a) support for the Commission b) support for clustering.
- MS – Encouraged by response and feels some momentum to the process.

7. Proposal from Stocksbridge PCC:

- Katherine Barnard introduced the proposal from Stocksbridge PCC and outlined her argument for supporting the proposal for no increase in clergy pay for 2009 to show solidarity to the rest of the people in the country who are facing economic hardship.
- Proposer: Katherine Barnard on behalf of Stocksbridge PCC
- Seconder: Ian Duffield
- Synod members then debated the proposal.
- Ian Duffield: Thanked PCC for motion, gave account of his experience of raising a similar motion in 1980s recession. By reducing pay would help with current financial pressure the church faces and also see this in other industries where trying to save jobs. Supports motion.
- Julian Mann: Thinking as if he were not ordained – would vote against the motion as key priority is clergy morale in frontline parishes. If he were on PCC where Keith Ryder West works hard doing a good job ministering Word and Sacrament would want to see him paid more. The estimation of people in ministry in this part of the country needs to go up. If on Keith Ryder West's PCC would vote against this in current climate.
- Ed Mitchell: Not sure if stopping rise would affect morale at this time. Need to consider the circumstances of each person where a) have additional income from working spouse b) clergy where spouse stays at home c) socio-economic surrounding in which the clergy live. Much to consider but in balance supports the motion.
- Michael George: Not ordained thinks that the laity should abstain from vote and let the clergy decide. Clergy has set example in past and are not overpaid compared to financial sector, medical staff, politicians. Clergy are an example and should decide for themselves.
- Richard Gomersall: Clergy person but is Non-Stipendiary. Clergy paid a stipend – an amount that allows them to live. If stop increase of inflation will mean that more clergy will struggle financially and be behind. Ask that motion is not passed.
- Doris Proctor: PCC member – no one mentioned that on top of Stipend they have no housing costs, and can claim expenses that cover personal costs – car, telephone etc. Nobody mentioned this.
- Keith Ryder-West: Is content on stipend – surprised when came to this Diocese as pay increased over national minimum. Been in place where working expenses have not been recompensed by PCC so pay was below minimum level. Must also consider those who are ordinands.
- Kath Allott: What is national minimum stipend?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS – approx. £20500 • RG – Dioceses can adjust in a band between £500 above the minimum. • Question – Are curates paid less? • EM – Slightly less. • Louise Collins – Impressed by level of debate by those for and against. Thinks that should send the motion on for other to engage in the debate regardless of what think about the substance of the motion. • Voting by houses: • House of Laity: • For - 8 • Against - 3 • Abstentions- 16 • House of Clergy: • For – 7 • Against – 5 • Abstain – 3 • MS - Motion is passed by Deanery Synod and will be taken to the next Diocesan Synod. 	MS send to Diocesan Sec.
<p>8. Diocesan and General Synod:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KL - No reports received as General Synod currently sitting and Diocesan Synod is at the w/e. 	
<p>9. News from the Parishes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Cuthbert’s Fir Vale welcome Rev’d Monica Sutton as Non Stipendiary Curate • Ed Mitchell announced the death of Shelia Ferguson who died today. • St Mary’s Bolsterstone hold their triennial flower festival on Saturday 29th August • St Pauls Norwood Avenue welcome’s Keith Crookes as Non Stipendiary Minister – service on Thursday 30th July at 7.30pm. • St Johns Deepcar welcome Hilda Isaacson as assistant curate. • Mother’s Union is offering training to those who lead/facilitate marriage preparation in September – details to be confirmed. 	
<p>10. Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deanery Synod Supper – Tuesday 22nd September at St Leonards – invitations to follow • Ecclesfield Deanery Synod Thursday 26th November 2009 – location to be confirmed. • Meeting Closed at 9.15pm with the Grace. 	Note All