

# **NORHAM DEANERY SYNOD**

## ***MINUTES OF THE 14 MARCH 2011 MEETING***

The meeting was held at St John's Spittal. There were 15 present and 11 apologies for absence. It was chaired by Terry Harris; Matthew Knox opened in prayer and also shared about the current situation in Spittal church – especially the plans for a 'Messy Church' service the last Sunday afternoon of each month.

### **1. MINUTES OF THE 13 DECEMBER 2010 MEETING**

Accepted as a correct record.

### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

Deanery representation on the **Diocesan Synod** was queried. Terry Harris, Alan Hughes, Rob Kelsey and Matthew Knox are members, but there are currently lay vacancies. John Ayerst volunteered.

### **3. DEANERY SYNOD SECRETARY**

Ian Corsie has volunteered.

### **4. DEANERY DEVELOPMENT GROUP (DDG)**

The group has met twice since the last Deanery Synod meeting and has valued the opportunity for more extended thinking on key issues. It has dealt with the following:

- Synod meeting dates and key topics (see dates of future meetings at 9 below)
- Bridge magazine (see 6 below)
- Deanery Finance Group (see 5 below)

### **5. DEANERY FINANCE GROUP (DFG)**

This is an ad hoc group formed by the Area Dean and Lay Chair for the purpose of formulating a Deanery approach (as opposed to a 'parishes fighting their own corners' approach) to the thorny parish share issue in time for the Archdeacon's visit in September. Points raised by the Area Dean and in discussion:

- Members of the DFG as envisaged at present are: Rob Kelsey, Terry Harris, Victor Dickinson, Eric Grounds, Ian Guthrie, Matthew Knox, Chris Timmins, Peter Straker-Smith, Ian Corsie.
- The key questions the group must address are: 'What precisely are the deanery's problems with parish share?' 'What can we as a deanery do to help ourselves?' 'What can individual parishes do to help themselves?'
- It is accepted that there will be no 'perfect solution' to these questions; but money to sustain ministry has to be found, and ways have to be found to make the raising of it an accepted part of church life.
- Alan Hughes reported on Berwick's recent successful TRIO stewardship campaign.
- Ford/Etal has written to the Bishop about the high-percentage increase in parish share experienced this year.

### **6. BRIDGE MAGAZINE**

The meeting discussed the proposed framework, prepared by the DDG and agreed that it should be implemented. Key points:

- Key purpose is to keep parishes in touch with other (news/events/timings/gossip).

- The new Bridge will be a simpler production of 8 pages of A5, with one page for each parish or parish group, plus front page for deanery editorial. It will be on coloured paper with single colour printing (but not necessarily black).
- It will be available online at [www.norhamdeanery.org.uk](http://www.norhamdeanery.org.uk) for those who wish to receive an email each month with instructions for downloading. (NB: The cost of renewing the domain name after the initial purchase period is to be checked out by Alan Cater who is setting up the site.)
- 500 copies will be printed initially by Shiel and Morrison at £94 plus postage costs.
- The bulk of the copies will be delivered to Holy Trinity Berwick for collection by individual parishes. The rest will be mailed to Holy Island, Cornhill and Ford/Lowick/Etal as they specify.
- First issue of new Bridge will be May, with deadline of 10 Apr for contributions (in style/format as instructed by the Bridge Editor).
- Deadline for copy each month will be the 10th of the previous month. No exceptions: if no copy, then that parish's page will be blank.
- 10 issues per year (combined Jul/Aug and Dec/Jan).
- Since there are funds available in the Bridge account, the May issue will be produced gratis.
- May issue will invite subscription by email (free) or hard copy (£1.50 for remainder of 2011, £3 for full year).
- Terry Harris and Chris Timmins will work together as Interim Bridge Editors to get the new system going. New Bridge Editor to be appointed by the end of this year (vacancy to be advertised in the May edition).

The meeting expressed a resounding 'Thank you' to John Benn who has so faithfully and professionally produced the Bridge over the past 5 years. The Area Dean expressed his thanks to the DDG for developing a positive proposal.

## 7. FLODDEN 500

Linda Gardham introduced the plans being developed for this major anniversary in 2013 (the battle took place on 9 Sep 1513). Branxton Church will be at the heart of it. Various sub-groups are being established, including a church sub-group which Linda will co-chair with David Taverner, the newly-appointed Minister at Coldstream. The church will be part of the Flodden 'eco-museum' ('museum without walls') that will link all the related sites together. This a great opportunity to increase tourist visitors to Branxton Church and build cross-border church links.

## 8. NOTICES

- There will be a Deanery confirmation on 18 Sep (venue not yet decided).
- Lent courses are being held in Cornhill and Tweedmouth.
- 'Crossing the Threshold' (encouraging churches to put their buildings to wider use) conference at St John Percy Mains Church North Shields 22 Mar.
- Ford/Etal has an event in Lady Waterford Hall 13 May at which broadcaster and author John Grundy will be speaking.

## 9. FUTURE DEANERY SYNOD MEETING DATES (ALL 7 FOR 7.30 PM)

- **Tues 28 June at Ancroft Village Hall** Bishop Frank will attend. Flodden 500.
- **Mon 26 Sep on Holy Island** (tide open from 6.30 pm) Women in the episcopate.
- **Tues 6 Dec (venue not yet fixed)** Parish share.

The comment was made that holding the Deanery Synod meeting 'in the round' was far more congenial and effective than having seats in rows and a 'top table'.