

# **NORHAM DEANERY SYNOD**

## ***MINUTES OF THE 6 DECEMBER 2011 MEETING***

The meeting was held in Holy Trinity Church Berwick. There were 22 present and 5 apologies for absence. A particular welcome was extended to Ann Peters, who was inducted to assist in the parishes of Tweedmouth, Spittal and Scremerston in November. The meeting opened with prayer and an update on life within the Berwick Parish Church.

### **1. MINUTES OF THE 26 SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING**

Accepted and signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.

### **2. REPORT OF GENERAL SYNOD MEETING 8-12 JULY 2011**

Revd Canon John Sinclair presented a report on the deliberations of the last General Synod meeting in York, at which there was considerable discussion about the Parochial Fees system: a Draft Order making substantial changes was not approved and the Parochial Fees 2010 Order remains in force for the time being.

### **3. WOMEN IN EPISCOPATE**

The Newcastle Diocesan Synod in November passed the motion approving the Draft Legislation. 2 dioceses (London and Chichester) have, so far, not approved the legislation. The next step is for the Feb meeting of the General Synod to consider (but not vote on at this stage) the draft Code of Practice.

### **4. DEANERY FINANCE GROUP**

The Area Dean presented a report (previously circulated) on the work of the DFG during this year. The group was formed to enable the churches of the Deanery to work more closely together over the contentious issue of Parish Share; to see what we could do ourselves to improve the situation; and to present a coherent Deanery case to the Archdeacon in October. The group met 6 times and has now disbanded as it has completed its task.

One key thought that the Dean wished to get over was that the Diocese must not be seen as the 'enemy' in any discussion of Parish Share: the bills (mainly the costs of clergy) have to be paid, and we all need to work together to find solutions to the problems of balancing the budget.

The Dean was commended and thanked for leading a process which has brought churches together and increased mutual trust; and for presenting a thorough and helpful report, which facilitated a constructive discussion – especially on the proposal put forward by Terry Harris and Peter Straker-Smith for a reform of the current system, based on setting individual parish targets (a 'non-income based approach', along the lines used in the Diocese of London).

The proposal that the Deanery Development Group should now be tasked with investigating the practicalities of moving to a 'non-income based' approach to Parish Share allocation within the Deanery was approved unanimously.

## **5. 2012 PARISH SHARE ALLOCATION**

None of the above discussion about Parish Share affects the way it must be allocated in 2012. Terry Harris presented the 2012 figures, which are a straight 2% increase, across the board, on 2011.

## **6. DEANERY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

Ian Corsie presented a report (see attached) on the activities of the DDG over the past year since the group was constituted. In discussion, it was noted that the current system for publishing the Bridge will come up for discussion at the next Deanery Synod meeting in March.

The proposals for reappointments/new appointments to the DDG, as made in the report, were unanimously approved.

## **7. FLODDEN 500**

Since Linda Gardham was unable to attend this meeting, further discussion on the preparations and plans for this major 2013 event was held over to the next meeting.

## **8. 2012 DEANERY SYNOD MEETING DATES**

**Tues 27 March** in Tweedmouth Parish Church Hall.

**Weds 6 June**

**Mon 24 September**

**Tues 27 November**

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Leaflets by the Newcastle Diocesan Evangelism task Group on 'Sharing God's Love in the Home' were distributed.
- Jean Skinner, the Diocesan Child Protection Officer, would like to come to our area to give a presentation on Child Protection issues; can we get a group together to make her visit worthwhile?