

NORHAM DEANERY SYNOD

MINUTES OF THE 27 MARCH 2012 MEETING

The meeting was held in Tweedmouth Church Hall. There were 19 present and 10 apologies for absence. Joan Blackett was welcomed as the Spittal representative replacing Chris Timmins. Matthew Knox opened the meeting with prayer and an update on life at Tweedmouth Parish Church, listing 4 priorities: encouraging deeper spirituality; being better pastorally; broadening young people's work; and holding more invitation events.

1. MINUTES OF THE 6 DECEMBER 2011 MEETING

Accepted and signed as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- The 2011 table of statutory Parish Fees will hold until the end of 2012. The new table of fees for 2013 will show hefty rises which will affect poorer parishes.
- The discussion on the new arrangements for the Bridge will now take place at the June synod meeting.

3. FLODDEN 500

Linda Gardham presented an update of developments for this key commemoration in 2013:

- The churches sub group is the only one which is working in practice as a combined Anglo-Scottish group; and the churches are seen to be playing a very positive role in the planning.
- The theme is 'Peace and Reconciliation'.
- The website www.flodden1513.com is a highly recommended resource, linking together the various related sites as an 'eco-museum'.
- Flower festivals linked to the Flodden theme will take place between Easter and October next year.
- The Northumbria Community is organising a reconciliation pilgrimage 24-28 Jul: one group south from Scotland and one north from England.
- Yetholm Sinfonia (Geoffrey Emerson) is organising a choir of local voices. There is an end-Jun deadline for signing up; Rob Kelsey has leaflets.
- A multi-site Songs of Praise is planned.
- On 10 Sep there will be an RC Requiem Mass in Norham Church with Cardinal O'Brien (leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland). This will be followed by a civic ceremony to be held in a marquee at Branxton.
- Children's events are being considered

4. MISSION ACTION PLANS/DEANERY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Terry Harris outlined how the Deanery has been receiving £2000 per year from the Diocese for small outreach projects (not for internal church matters), first as 'Mission Action Plan', but latterly as 'Deanery Development Fund'. Grants of around £250 (but up to £350) have been made and the following reports were made of how these funds had been used by individual churches:

- **Cornhill:** £250 for notice board.
- **Carham:** £250 for new notice board jointly with local Parish Council.
- **Branxton:** £250 for notice board.
- **Ford & Etal:** £250 for hall hire etc for Marriage Course; another course will be starting after Easter.
- **Tweedmouth:** £350 for books, bibles, CDs and other resources for the Sunday School set up last September (up to 20 children now 'on the books').

- **Spittal:** £350 for food, crafts, etc used at Creative (or 'Messy') Church which has been enthusiastically received by children (25-30 of them) and helpers alike.
- **Scremmerston:** £350 for 3500 Christmas service cards made and distributed; for summer club expenses in local school; and for refreshments after services.
- **Ancroft:** £250 for expenses of local Heritage Day. Plus £60 to produce a local village leaflet.

Rob Kelsey encouraged all churches to seek (further) grants from these funds for things that will really make a difference locally.

5. DEANERY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Ann Peters was formally appointed by Deanery Synod as a member of the DDG.

Having been invited by Deanery Synod to investigate the practicalities of moving to a 'non-income based' approach to Parish Share allocation, The DDG made a proposal (see attached paper) for how the Deanery might approach the local allocation of Parish Share in a different way. This method of working has been tried and tested in the Ely Diocese. The Archdeacon and Diocesan Secretary are interested in the proposal; but unless more money is raised overall than at present, a new system will not be viable.

Matthew Knox raised 5 points of major concern about the proposal and, because there could therefore be no consensus on this, no vote was taken on it. The DDG will consider the matter further and report back at the next (June) synod meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Matthew Knox reported that he has volunteered to be the Deanery Youth Advocate. Rob Kelsey announced that Felicity Stannard is also interested in being involved.
- Paul Collins reported on the 2013 exhibition of the Lindisfarne Gospels in Durham, and the faith and educational possibilities that will arise from it. This could be of much wider interest than just Holy Island.

7. DATES/VENUES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Weds 6 June in Etal Village Hall

Mon 24 September in Branxton Village Hall

Tues 27 November in Green Room Berwick Parish Church

Some concern was expressed about the way the venue for the 6 Jun meeting had been arranged prior to the Deanery Synod meeting, without the parish representatives being consulted beforehand.