

# **NORHAM DEANERY SYNOD**

## ***MINUTES OF THE 27 NOVEMBER 2012 MEETING***

The meeting was held at the Piggery Farm Resource Centre, Hunting Hall, Lowick. There were 13 present and 12 apologies for absence. After Victor Dickinson opened the meeting in prayer, John Daniels summarised the current situation in Lowick church: 'small congregation; good spirit.' The village sees the church as a key element of community life; and there is a plan to create a Heritage Centre at the back of the church. A stewardship campaign is currently under way.

### **1. MINUTES OF THE 24 SEP 2012 MEETING**

Accepted and signed as a correct record.

### **2. MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **3. PARISH SHARE ALLOCATION FOR 2013**

The allocations agreed at the 2 Oct Deanery Parish Share meeting were formally approved. The Archdeacon and members of the Diocesan Parish Share Working Party have subsequently met with those who had been members of the Deanery Finance Group to review the whole Norham Deanery Parish Share process: they were impressed with the way the Deanery has gone about this task, and took away a number of useful points for further consideration at Diocesan level.

### **4. REPORT OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL SYNOD MEETING 19-21 NOV**

John Sinclair, who was unable to be present, submitted the attached written report. The key item was the vote after the debate on legislation for women bishops, which failed, by a very small margin in the House of Laity, to gain the required two thirds majority in all 3 houses. There was a brief discussion on the implications of the General Synod's decision.

### **5. BRIDGE MAGAZINE**

Rob Kelsey presented his discussion paper concerning the future of the Bridge and the need for appropriate communication amongst the churches of the Deanery. Victor Dickinson then presented a proposal for continuing the Bridge in hard copy format, for which an excellent mock-up had been produced, under the editorship of Judith Dickinson. However, discussion of this proposal revealed two fundamental flaws: there is insufficient enthusiasm to ensure that regular monthly contributions are made from each church ('What exactly is this for?' was a question still unanswered); and even if sufficient subscriptions could be obtained to make the magazine viable at a sensible charge, there would still be major gaps in the distribution system, resulting in many copies ending up unread at the back of churches.

It was generally agreed that churches keeping in touch is important and that electronic means of communication should be the way ahead, with locally printed copying for those without computers (still a major constituency in the Deanery). A proposal to accept Rob Kelsey's proposals (Bridge to cease in its present form; and incoming DDG to consider the best form of new Deanery communication arrangements) was agreed with one vote against. Judith Dickinson was warmly thanked for her hard work in putting together the proposal for continuing the Bridge.

## 6. DEANERY PASTORAL COMMITTEE/DEANERY DEVELOPMENT GROUP/ DEANERY SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

Rob Kelsey introduced his revised paper proposing a new structure for this clutch of committees (one group of people meeting for two separate purposes; plus a slimmed-down version of the group to make decisions on Deanery Synod agendas, venues, dates, etc). Matthew Knox presented his amendment which would ensure that, when the committee was meeting in its Pastoral guise, each group of parishes should have at least one representative present in order to be quorate. It was felt that this amendment, though making the DPC less 'agile', would make it more authoritative, and it was therefore welcomed. Further amendments were suggested and agreed (notably that all appointments are to be reviewed annually at the Nov/Dec Deanery Synod meeting) and Rob Kelsey's paper, revised with all amendments incorporated, is attached to these minutes.

## 7. APPOINTMENTS TO DPC/DDG

The following appointments were agreed:

	<b>Clergy</b>	<b>Laity</b>
Berwick	Alan Hughes/ Peter Middlemiss	Gwyneth Guthrie
Tweedmouth/Spittal/S'ton:	Ann Peters*	Lorraine Plater
Lowick/Ancroft/Ford & Etal:	Victor Dickinson	John Daniels
Holy Island:	Paul Collins	Ian Corsie*
Norham/B'ton/C'ham/C'hill:	Rob Kelsey*	Terry Harris*

(\* Also members of Deanery Synod Standing Committee; DPC/DDG to nominate the remaining DSSC lay member for subsequent approval by Deanery Synod)

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **Living Theology NE** The training courses to be held at Stannington Sep 13-Jun 14 (26 evenings, 2 study days and 1 residential weekend, cost £150) were noted.

## 9. DATES/VENUES OF 2013 MEETINGS

<b>Mon 11 March</b>	<b>Norham</b> (exact venue tba)
<b>Tues 4 Jun</b>	<b>Ancroft</b> Village Hall
<b>Weds 2 Oct</b>	<b>Holy Island</b> St Cuthbert's Centre
<b>Thurs 28 Nov</b>	<b>Berwick</b> Parish Church Green Room