

Minutes of the meeting of the Whitby Deanery Synod held at St. Thomas's Church, Glaisdale on Wednesday 4th May, 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Attendance and Apologies - as per Attendance Register.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 18th November, 2015, having been circulated were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- a) The Rural Dean reported on the Archbishop's visit to the Deanery in December and his walk through the Deanery.
- b) The Secretary intimated that there was a need for a Lay Chairman to be appointed and asked for anyone interested to contact him.

Correspondence

The Secretary referred to a letter from the Diocesan Secretary confirming the appointment of the Revd. Michael George Timothy Gobbett as Rector of Whitby and that the Licensing would take place at St. Hilda's Church, Whitby on Friday 22nd July, 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Standing Committee Report

The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Standing Committee held on the 4th March, 2016.

General Synod Report

The Secretary referred to a written report supplied by General Synod representative, Paul Hutchinson, regarding the November and February Sessions of the General Synod.

Discussion on the future of the Church in the Whitby Deanery

The Secretary indicated that it had been hoped that Canon Angela Bailey would be able to attend to address the Synod on Regional Parish Assistants, but she had been unable to attend.

It was intimated that the future of the Rural church was a matter of great concern and the Diocesan Synod wished to consider a report on developing our Deaneries at its May session. The Secretary referred briefly to a number of matters outlined in the report regarding the future role of Deaneries and a suggestion that there should be a Deanery Leadership Team in each Deanery. If this was implemented then the Deanery Synod would work with the Deanery Leadership Team to fulfil the vision and plan for the Deanery.

The Secretary intimated that sad fact was that numbers on the Electoral Roll, which was an indication of the support in the parishes for the church had since 1981 fallen considerably and in some cases by up to two-thirds. There was therefore an urgent need to address this situation and to consider what action could be taken not only in the parishes, but in the Deanery as a whole.

Mr. Paul Burnett then spoke about the Leading Your Church into Growth Conference he had attended. He intimated that he had found it very uplifting. Different parishes have different priorities. Rural parishes are short on members. What is needed is the tools to do the work well. He indicated that we do presence well, but not welcome we need to look at what we do and what we need to do. All parishes have their own problems, but people have to do something to overcome these. It was emphasised that prayer can be a powerful tool. The Conference also addressed how to retain people. This could be through Messy Church, working with other churches and also involvement with others, particularly, youngsters.

There followed a general discussion on what was needed to be done and one suggestion that we should love one another. Members also related some of their own experiences. It was agreed that the matter should be put on a future Agenda.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.00 p.m.