

Minutes of the meeting of the Whitby Deanery Synod held at Commandale Village Hall on Wednesday 13th May, 2015, at 7.30 p.m.

Attendance and Apologies – as per the Attendance Register.

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th November, 2014, were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

Deanery Website – the Secretary intimated that the website is up and running and Mr. Michael Lythe gave an update as to the position.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Standing Committee Report

The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Standing Committee held on the 26th November, 2014.

The Secretary updated the meeting on the change of the main topic for the November meeting, which would now be the Bishop of Selby, leading a discussion on the rural church.

The Rural Dean updated the meeting on St. Hilda's Way – the long distance walk and the launch event, which will be held on Sunday 28th June with a Service of Blessing at St. Hilda's, Hinderwell, this would be followed by a first stage of the walk. On the successive days, walks would take place along the St. Hilda's Way cumulating on Friday 3rd July with a walk ending at Whitby Abbey. Full details of the week's events were available.

Diocesan Synod Report

The Revd. Christine Haddon-Reece reported on the meeting of the Diocesan Synod.

The Archbishop of York in his presidential address stressed the need to pray.

She referred to a report by the Archdeacon of the East Riding, the Revd. Andrew Broome, which was to be circulated to the Deaneries, which advice about what Deaneries should do.

A list of questions had been produced for Deaneries to consider, discuss and report back to the Revd. Andrew Broome on.

There had been a discussion of ideas about the type of people to elect to the Diocesan Synod and also a session on Pensions.

There had been a brief discussion about Mission and about becoming involved with the local community. Reference was made to Malcolm Jackson, who was available to speak on the work of a Missioner.

Address by the Revd. Simon John Smale on giving.

Mr. David Haddon-Reece, the Lay Chairman, introduced the new Vicar of Fylingdales and Hawske, the Revd. Simon Smale and welcomed him to the Synod.

Mr. Smale then introduced himself and gave a brief outline of his background, which included University, working as an Accountant and setting up his own business as an Accountant. He went into the Ministry as a Curate in his early 40's, though he continued running his own accountancy business. He was approached to take the half-time post as Vicar of Fylingdales and Hawske-cum-Stainsacre, and at the same time take on the role of Deanery Financial Advisor in the Whitby Deanery.

He had done a dissertation on the topic of financial running of the church and had looked into the word Gift. The word appears much more in the New Testament and in the Old.

We are all called to give.

Giving is based on time, talents and money. Sometimes people talk about the first two, but not the third. It was essential that people looked at where they spent their money.

Giving appears to be a problem in modern society. Of course so many people look to acquire all the things they need and then give part of what is left as giving. The biblical thought is to look at the whole amount that we have not simply what is left. He talked about the word tithing. He asked that we had to remember that all we have is a gift to others from God.

If people do not give generously then that will effect the future of the church e.g. to support the clergy. People not only need to give more, but to grow the church so that would automatically increase the income.

He posed the questions as to what to do to better church's finances:-

- (1) Link giving to income
- (2) Budgeting – fitting giving to the church.
- (3) Use of Standing Orders – make these annual, so people can focus once a year on what can be given.

Money was important, but only part of Mission.

There followed a lively discussion and Revd. Smale was thanked for leading the address.

Any Other Business

- a) The Rural Dean intimated that Whitby Parish would be a vacancy as from the 14th May.

- b) The Rural Dean intimated that the role of Rural Deans was being looked at.
- c) Details of concerts at St. Oswald, Lythe were given.
- d) 6th June – Barn Dance at Grosmont Church.
- e) 6th September – Confirmation at St. John, Sleights.
- f) 20th/21st June – Glaisdale Open Gardens
- g) 18th June – St. Hilda's Sneaton – Service re the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.
- h) 4th July – Proms in the Pews at Grosmont.

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