

Minutes of the meeting of the Whitby Deanery Synod held at Sleights School, Sleights on Wednesday 16th November, 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 14th September, 2016, having been circulated were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Correspondence

The Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to a letter from the Church Army of the 2nd November, 2016, and, in particular, to the details of a new free course – Faith Pictures. He also referred to a one day conference to be held at Bishopthorpe Palace, York on the 4th February, 2017, entitled “Step Forward”.

Standing Committee Report

The Secretary reported that there had been no meeting of the Standing Committee since the last meeting and there was therefore nothing to report.

Deanery Financial Advisor

The Revd. Simon Smale had given his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and there was therefore no report from him.

Presentation by Bishop Paul Ferguson on Education

The Bishop indicated that he was Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education.

There were 120 Schools and Academies in the Diocese of York and 4 Secondary Academies. There 20,600 children in Church Schools. Seven of the Church of England Schools were in North Yorkshire.

- (i) The Church of England's Vision for Education –
The vision was that education in Church of England schools was not just for Church of England people, but for all people.
Education should foster hope and aspirations and deeply held Christian views should be reflected in the education.
There was a need for a wider curriculum.
Elements that should be encouraged in the schools included hope, community and dignity.
- (ii) Transforming our Diocese –

Schools had their part to play in the policies of the Diocese under Generous Churches and Nurturing Disciples and People and a move towards growth and the establishment of sustainable finance.

(iii) Changing the role of the Diocese -

The Diocese would be engaged in assisting Academies, which were not essentially Church of England Schools working together with Church schools.

Church schools were flourishing and education teams for the schools were engaged with the Regional Schools Commissioners, OFSTED, the Secretary of State, Local Authorities and other Dioceses and schools.

This should lead to greater expectations on the Dioceses and particularly the schools effectiveness.

(iv) Understanding Christianity

It was accepted that there were in many schools low levels of knowledge about Christianity and there was a need to raise the level of religious literacy and to think theologically.

Whilst a pick and mix approach was necessary the key purpose was to develop an understanding of Christianity.

Training on this topic was available to all schools.

The Bishop then took questions from the floor.

Any Other Business

June and Andy Bowden reported on the St. Hilda's Way Pilgrimage 2016 and showed a film of the walk. Such had been the enthusiasm that a similar walk is planned to take place starting on the 30th August, 2017 at Hinderwell and it was their hope that even more people than had taken part in this year's walk would take part in all or part of the Pilgrimage in 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.