

# STRETFORD DEANERY MISSION & PASTORAL COMMITTEE

## Minutes of Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 at St John's Old Trafford

**Present:** Revd John Hughes (Area Dean & Chair), Yvonne Mackereth (Lay Chair), Duncan Gilbertson (All Saints, Stretford), Ray Mills (Christ Church, Davyhulme), Revd Chris Ford, Neil Pagan (St Mary, Davyhulme), John Ward (St John, Old Trafford), Michelle Byrne, Janice Mortimer (St John, Flixton), Colin Hooley (St Matthew, Stretford) and Alison Bell (St Bride, Old Trafford. (Anita Ward took minutes.)

The meeting began with prayer.

**Apologies:** Ross Malkin (St Hilda, Old Trafford), Simon Beaumont (St Michael, Flixton), Robert Beale (St John, Flixton) and Ann Jeffries (St Matthew, Stretford)

### Minutes

John Hughes apologised for the absence of minutes of the last meeting.

### 1. Where does Stretford's Deanery Mission and Pastoral Plan stand in the light of:

#### a) recent appointments?

The current clergy situation in the Deanery is as follows:

- St John's/St Bride's: 1 full-time stipendiary (St John's) and 1 half-time (Peter Matthew's at St Bride's has a half-time role as Archdeaconry Young Adult Missioner). Plan remains to have 1 stipendiary for the Old Trafford area
- St Hilda's: joined with St Peter's, Gorse Hill, no plans for any further sharing.
- St Matthew's: hard to see how it could presently share with All Saints, as both are large parishes, but need to explore further.
- Christ Church/ St Clement's: now a United Benefice / 2 parishes (with Karen Marshall)
- St Mary, Davyhulme – one full-time stipendiary (Chris Ford)
- St Michael, Flixton – one full-time stipendiary (Vicky Johnson)
- St John, Flixton – vacancy (appointment recently made, see below)

John reminded DMPC reps that they are part of the feedback process to PCCs / churches about the current situation and the planning around the number of stipendiary clergy. (e.g., from five to three in Flixton/Davyhulme/Urmston over the coming years.)

Following Karen's licensing in December, Ray reported that the congregation of Christ Church now feels secure and the two PCCs work well together. John thanked Christ Church and St Clement's for their willingness to co-operate, and commended the Archdeacon for his role in smoothing the path. Duncan added that Cath Faulkner had been a unifying influence, having been an OLM at St Clement's and then priest-in-charge of St Clement's/ Christ Church until her retirement (and she now provides support for All Saints).

St John's Flixton: Peter Thorn has been appointed as a 'House for Duty' priest. Peter is retiring from a full-time post in Suffolk and is expected to move to Manchester in the autumn.

#### b) Current and imminent vacancies?

- St Michael's: Imminent vacancy. Conversations necessary to explore the possibility of a future appointment at St Michael's having P in C responsibility for St John's.

The two churches have collaborated on Flixton Folk festival, Lent groups etc and have had informal discussions about working together missionally in the future. Is the Christ Church and St Clement's pattern one to learn from?

- As Peter Thorn will be an NSM on 20 hrs pw it would be inappropriate to expect him to serve as Priest in Charge.
- *St Clement's and Christ Church*: Bryan Corke (NSM) is Associate Priest to both, and Christine Bailey (OLM) curate will soon be priested.
- *All Saints*: vacancy since July '14. They still have regular Sunday and Wednesday Eucharists, thanks to visiting clergy. One of their churchwardens has resigned on health grounds but they have a faithful congregation and hope for an appointment in due course. Links with Lostock School have been put on hold for the time being. Duncan pointed out that the Trafford Centre is in Christ Church's parish, not All Saints, and asked for other churches to support All Saints with prayer.
- *St Matthew's* congregation is becoming more diverse, with more young people joining.
- Yvonne will report back to the next meeting about a proposed housing development of three thousand new dwellings near the Trafford Centre.

### **c) Diocesan Review Process?**

John said that Area Deans as yet have no clear template for future DMPC presentations while the review process is still going on, though he suggested that it is likely that Mission Action Planning (MAP) will play a key role, both for parish and deanery.

**St Mary's** had completed a MAP some time ago. John suggested it would be useful to share it with other churches at their end of the Deanery.

All parishes are expected to engage with the MAP process. It should help to identify areas where mission can be shared between different churches, as well as priorities within the parish. John suggested it would be a good idea for chapter meetings to be held in 'Mission Unit' areas as well as for the whole deanery, e.g. Davyhulme, Urmston & Flixton; / Old Trafford / Firswood; / Stretford Lostock;

**St Matthew's** plans to appoint a youth worker – initially for 2 years - using a large legacy, together with match funding. Once established, this might provide an opportunity for shared mission with All Saints, especially in the light of proposals to close Lostock Youth Centre and library. Alison felt sure that St Bride's youth workers would be keen to support the new post at St Matthew's. St Hilda's also have a strong youth team.

**St Bride's** have signed an agreement with Trafford Housing Trust for their present building to be pulled down to make way for extra-care housing units and a new community centre, with a new church being built on the land next door. This has meant that most of their energies have been focused on negotiations, leaving less time for wider deanery matters. Once the new church building is complete they will be in a position to rethink their mission and outreach.

## **2. Proposal**

John suggested DMPC meetings be tied in with Deanery Synod meetings, so a DMPC report can be given, as follows: present minutes to be received by

Deanery Synod: Tues 21<sup>st</sup> April at Christ Church.

DMPC: Wed 15<sup>th</sup> June (focus on vocations) reporting to Deanery Synod: on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> July

DMPC: Mon 14<sup>th</sup> September reporting to Deanery Synod: 8<sup>th</sup> October (this is the week of Bishop David's visit to the Deanery)

John recommended that these minutes be shared with PCCs, APCMs and Deanery Synod. The meeting closed with prayers at 9.15pm.