

Ryedale Christian Council

ANNUAL PLANNING AND REVIEW MEETING

HELD AT 1000 SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2010

MINUTES

The meeting began with a short period for prayer and meditation, in which was included prayers for a member of the council whose husband had been fatally injured in a road accident in the previous week. Flowers had been sent from the Council.

This was followed by opening prayers.

1. 10 members were present with 5 apologies.

2. The Treasurer gave the figures for the Ryedale Show Hospitality Tent, which had reverted to its former level of success. This satisfactory outcome was attributed to the better weather on the day and the news was thankfully received by the council.

3 In a review of the activities during 2010,

(a) The Songs of Praise service in All Saints Helmsley had been very well supported, raising £150 for the Bible Society.

(b) The Lenten Groups had repeated earlier success, and the Council, agreed that we must bear in mind other Lent season events offered by churches in the area.

(c) The Spring Service at Harome had been a conspicuous success. This was thought to be due in part to the publicity given out by the host parish and the fact that the service was part of a routine evensong. The excellent food after the service had been an added reward.

(d) The Open Meeting, where the newly appointed Rural Dean of the re-formed Anglican Deanery of North Ryedale, had been rated a success. His personality had been well received by the members attending, and his offer of support for our activities is a welcome development.

(e) The disappointing outcome of the planned coach trip to Whitby was noted. It was agreed that the lesson to be learned was not to pick a destination which was already a commonplace goal of private days out by car from Ryedale. .

(f) The Hospitality Tent at the Ryedale Show, already reported on as to its financial out-turn, had been a great success largely thanks to the organisers' efforts. We had more volunteers, a better scale of equipment; and the sandwiches had actually run out. Customers were turning up for refreshment well after the time when the tent was being taken down, such had been effect on the public. The corner site is now seen as an advantage as its position is now well known to regular attendees at the Show. It was recalled that whilst the financial contribution to the council activities is central to our mission, the primary objective was and remains to offer hospitality to visitors.

(g) The Quiet Day at Holy Rood House, Sowerby, had been a source of great satisfaction and comfort to those who attended. Our thanks go to the organising members.

(h) The Council website continues under our webmaster . All relevant information is put on the site, including minutes of the council meetings. In this connection, it is the wish of the Chairman that the reports published reflect the decisions taken and not attributing items to individual thoughts and contributions. In future, a synopsis of the minutes will be drafted, based on the minutes as agreed; and published.

(i) The Power Point presentations have been a great success. We are now starting to receive further requests for lectures.

(j) The distribution of books to school children changing to their Upper Schools is appreciated and will continue.

(k) A report on the work of the Churches Together in the North York Moors was given. There is a degree of financial help available from this organisation to support ecumenical activity.

(l) We hear with satisfaction of the re-formation of a group of clergy in Helmsley, including representatives from the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist churches. It is understood that liaison with the council is part of their intentions. This promising news was well received.

(m) The hustling meeting prior to the recent General Election was mentioned, and the member organising it emphasised the need for a meeting where people could evaluate the candidates with a view to deciding whether or not they merited support, an assessment of character rather than party political programme.

4 After a break for coffee, the council considered

The programme for 2011.

(a) It is the wish of the Chairman that a period for prayer should precede meetings. This will be voluntary. It will consist of beginning the meeting 45 minutes before the normal time, making the start time 1845 (for 1930) for normal meetings. Glad assent was given to this suggestion.

(b) The Songs of Praise service in the week of Christian Unity will take place on Sunday 23rd January. We will be holding the service in All Saints Kirkbymoorside.

(c) For the Lenten groups, it was decided to make use of material from York Diocese under the title "Rich Inheritance, Jesus' legacy of love" for council-sponsored groups.

(d) Much progress has been made with the organisation for the Ampleforth Conference scheduled for 30th April. Although this is the Saturday after Easter and a Bank Holiday weekend, it is the only date at which the rooms at the Abbey will be available. Two speakers have already accepted and further details will be on this website early in the New Year. Beginning at 1000 and lasting until 1600, the charge will be £10.00.

(e) The Spring Service in the latter part of May was discussed. We are hoping to go to Gillamoor for one of their joint evensongs, date to be confirmed. The church is of modest size, but the village school with the adjoining but now closed Methodist church will be more than adequate for refreshments after the service.

(f) Despite the disappointment of the 2010 coach trip to Whitby, which was cancelled for lack of support, it was decided to arrange another such trip for 2011. The destination of Markenfield Hall, near Ripon was decided upon. This is an ancient building in private hands, with Catholic owners and an ecumenical chapel in the grounds.

(g) The Chairman wishes to resume the holding of a Youth Day. A panel will be asked to develop this proposal.

(h) The Open Day will take place early in July on a date still to be decided.

5 The meeting paused from its agenda for a very interesting talk and question session on the work of Besom in Ryedale. This modest organisation works to relieve suffering in Ryedale, using prayer to inspire the givers of care, rather than concentrating on the needs of the cared-for. Based in Malton and linked to other bodies throughout the country, they work under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a most inspiring manner.

6(a) Resuming working to the council agenda, we discussed the Quiet Day 2011, which will again be held in Holy Rood House, Sowerby; an excellent venue. The date is yet to be decided.

(b) The dissemination of information relating to church affairs will make yet more use of the Council web site to keep the public informed. The Chairman is considering holding a social evening event to encourage the co-operation of all active clergy together with the council members. This, she hopes, will encourage enthusiasm for our joint work.

7 Under Any Other Business, we discussed

(a) A replacement on the council for a member whose health no longer allows him to take part in our activities.

(b) The Barnabas project has ceased to operate in the area, its work having been largely completed. Service to schools will continue, under whatever title.

8 The next meeting will be held at St Chad's at 1845, for prayer, and 1930 on Monday 17th January 2011.

The meeting closed after a short prayer service under the title "Where two or three are gathered."