

Blackburn Diocesan Synod

The Draft Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield Reorganisation Scheme

13 April 2013

The Archdeacon of Blackburn reported that there were six parishes that would move into Blackburn Diocese under the Scheme (Hurst Green and Mitton, Bolton by Bowland and Grindleton, Waddington and West Bradford, and Gisburn). There were seven churches, four vicarages, three church schools, Bowland Academy High School and other primary schools in Hurst Green and Gisburn.

In the debate, the members of Synod emphasised their desire to welcome those parishes that, under the Scheme, would come to Blackburn Diocese. This was overwhelmingly the tenor of the debate.

Only one member spoke, saying we had focused on the proposals as they affected Blackburn Diocese, but he questioned the wisdom of the proposals as a whole, echoing concern as to the number of cathedrals in the proposed single diocese.

Other issues were raised in the debate, such as questions concerning the inclusion of the incoming parishes within our existing deanery structure and how this might impact on the possible reshaping of the deaneries within the Diocese. There were also financial questions of a pragmatic nature.

In the vote on the motion “that this Synod give its consent to the Draft Dioceses of Bradford, Ripon and Leeds and Wakefield Reorganisation Scheme 201-“ **104 members were in favour, one voted against and there was one abstention.**