

RICKMANSWORTH DEANERY SYNOD: *'We are the body of Christ'*

SYNOD OFFICERS

Rural Dean:	Revd Gavin Collins, Christ Church Vicarage, The Common, Chorleywood WD3 5SG	01923 282149
Lay Chair:	Duncan Kerr, Lavender Lodge, Nightingales Lane, Lt Chalfont, Amersham HP8 4SR	01494 763481
Treasurer:	Sally Morgan, Stockers House, Stockers Farm Rd, Rickmansworth WD3 1NZ	01923 773922
Secretary:	Alex Twells, 12 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth WD3 5QT	01923 448167

Minutes of the meeting in St Lawrence Bovington at 8pm on Thursday 5th June 2008

Members of the House of Clergy (15 members)

Present (6): Gavin Collins, Tim Marshall, Deborah Snowball, Miriam Mугan, Robert Riley-Braleу, Stephen Blood.

Apologies (3): Rachel Jenkinson, Jim Stevens, Nicholas Pneumaticos.

Members of the House of Laity (38 members)

Present (24): Allan & Pauline Brown, Norman Pearce, John Allen, Rus Downham, Alan Noyes, John Guy, John Stickland, Phil Waine, John Galloway, Michael Hart, Margaret Roberts, Jean Scott, Anne Baron, David Halden, Terence Russoff, Bill Seddon, Nick Vale, Sue Hillier, Sally Morgan, John Rhodes, Bernard Bell, Alan Wills, Alex Twells

Apologies (9): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Jeannie Poulton, David Nobbs, Jo Squire, Audrey Timberlake, Simon Allard, Ann Badhams, Pat Belither, Linda Clough.

Others

Present (2): Pete Wynter (Youth Leader, St Andrew's), Jenny Newman (Youth Leader, Sarratt and Chipperfield)

Apologies (1): Tom Appel (Youth Leader, Christ Church).

Item 1 - Welcome to the 14th Triennium of the deanery since its creation in 1970

Synod opened with the hymn *O Breath of God*.

Gavin welcomed everyone, especially those newly elected to synod, and (Item 3) introduced the Revd Robert Riley-Braleу, who had been licensed as priest-in-charge of St Oswald's Croxley Green on 28 April.

Tim Marshall spoke of St Lawrence's *Growing in Grace* programme, which embraced most of the church's activities. He particularly mentioned the remodelled *Little Fish* baptism and preparation work, whereby 80 families had remained in contact, and attending services. He then led an opening prayer.

Gavin thanked the St Lawrence team for the light refreshments, and introduced Pete Wynter and Jenny Newman.

Item 2 - Youth Presentation by Pete Wynter and Jenny Newman

Pete, five years into his job, said how leadership is hard, complex, and presents difficulties to find a way through decisions. He was inspired by the connections being made with young people over a wide area, thanks to the support of Tom and Jenny. He referred to *Fluid*, a ministry to street youngsters outside church life, whereby their questions about faith might be answered. There was also outreach in schools, and ministries of mission within the churches such as *Rock Solid* (11-14s) and YPF. It was inspirational, he said, to work in a church and carry a powerful message of hope, and he had detected a greater openness than he'd ever known. He was involved in 12 different clubs in any one week, plus camps and other seasonal events: finding the time was a challenge!

Pete encouraged all churches to release someone to be youth leader, even if voluntary or part-time; there are Trusts and charities that help with finance. He looked forward to more youth work across churches; that way can achieve growth. But it's not necessarily short-term, and it's important to pray for the next generation (John 17:20). One problem in inter-church work is that churches may be very different in churchmanship and worship styles, but if the young can be mobilised, the whole church is helped, to extend the Kingdom of God.

Jenny then highlighted four aspects of her work. One was *PULSE (Powerfully United Loving Service)* - neighbouring churches working together to help the community in various ways. Young people become friends through working and sharing, and the community is blessed. Another was the annual summer camp, *Resonate* (formerly *Ignite*), held in Latimer. Third, *Detonate*, a week-long holiday club held in Chorleywood, but which has reached its maximum size: the way forward is for its resources to be offered to other localities. Fourth, outreach to St Clement Danes secondary school in Chorleywood, led by different churches and co-ordinated by Tom. She mentioned other activities: leaders' conferences, boat party, team visit to Durban, training interns, for example. She took great joy from receiving adult encouragement and seeing youngsters growing in Spirit and moving on.

Pete addressed the question 'How does a church implement working together?' and offered five pointers.

First, be wise in what you seek to achieve. For regular activities, stick to your immediate neighbours; in his experience Watford was too distant. Second, have a clear vision, as *PULSE* has; know what you are doing and why you are doing it. Third, help participants by having clear expectations at the practical level. Fourth, Have clear values, and not just those that are evangelistic. Fifth, begin with a relationship to God, then the leaders should continue relating to each other, trusting and gaining strength from mutual helping, and seeking to grow a relationship between churches.

Questions followed. One brought out that simply an invitation to a cup of coffee from one church youth leader to a neighbouring church's youth leader was enough to begin joint work. Another was about financing youth work; events were self-financing, but because youngsters brought no money into a church, a lot of work needed to be funded from church budgets. Youth Leaders needed to catch, then set out, a vision to present to the whole church. A third question was answered by a suggestion that the Deanery Synod (via the Deanery Strategy Group) might consider how church youth work should interact with community youth work.

Item 4 - Minutes of the Synod on 11th October 2007 These were accepted and signed as a true record.

Item 5 - Matters arising from the minutes of 11th October (other than those itemised below) None.

Item 6 - Matters arising from General & Diocesan Synods in February and March respectively None.

Item 7 - Election of one PTO representative to the Deanery Synod for 2008-2011

One clergyperson to represent the 8 clergy with permission to officiate, either resident in the deanery or habitually worshipping in a deanery church during the past 6 months. Alex had contacted the 8, and only Stephen Blood had expressed willingness to serve - provided no else was interested - so he was duly elected unopposed.

[Secretary's Note: The new House of Clergy has 11 parochial members (plus one vacancy) and 4 non-parochial members. The House of Laity has 35 parochial members (plus one vacancy), and 3 non-parochial members]

Item 8 - Election of Deanery Officers [Note: The Rural Dean still has 3 years of his 5-year term to complete]

Lay Chair, by House of Laity	Duncan Kerr	(proposer Allan Brown,	seconded Sally Morgan)	Unopposed
Secretary, by both Houses	Alex Twells	(proposer Allan Brown,	seconded Phil Waine)	Unopposed
Treasurer, by both Houses	Sally Morgan	(proposer Jean Scott,	seconded Sue Hillier)	Unopposed

Item 9 - Election of representatives (one per parish) to Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee

Rules state there should be an equal number of lay and clergy, but the deanery has insufficient clergy willing to stand for this to be achieved. Proposer and Secunder must not be from the outgoing DSPC.

The following were elected unopposed by the House of Clergy:

Rickmansworth:	Deborah Snowball	(proposer Miriam Muga, seconded Robert Riley-Brale)
Sarratt:	Jim Stevens	(proposer Tim Marshall, seconded Stephen Blood),

The following were elected unopposed by the House of Laity:

Bovingdon:	Allan Brown	(proposer Norman Pearce, seconded Pauline Brown)
Kings Langley:	Rus Downham	(proposer John Allen, seconded Alan Noyes)
Christ Church:	Audrey Timberlake	(proposer Brian Smith, seconded Martin Perry)
St Andrew's:	Nick Vale	(proposer Anne Baron, seconded Bill Seddon)
All Saints Croxley Green:	Jo Squire	(proposer John Galloway, seconded David Williams)
St Oswald Croxley:	Jean Scott	(proposer Michael Hart, seconded Margaret Roberts)
Chipperfield:	David Nobbs	(proposer Phil Waine, seconded John Stickland)
Mill End:	Bernard Bell	(proposer Alan Wills, seconded Ann Badhams)

Item 10 - Appointment of Website Manager (www.rickydeanery.org.uk)

Gavin invited anyone interested in this position (whether a synod member or not) to contact him.

Item 11 - Any other business

1 Anyone interested in going to Oberammergau in 2010 should contact Linda Clough (for tour starting 31 May, 01923 264884), Deborah Snowball (start 7 Aug, 01923 772627), or Andy Crooks (start 23 Aug, 01727 853305).

2 Robert Riley-Brale drew attention to a *Celebration of Hope* on 22 June on The Green, Croxley Green at 3.30pm.

3 Anne Baron, a member of the Vacancy-in-See Committee, updated synod on progress in appointing a new diocesan bishop. At 7.30pm on 18 June in Alban Church of England Middle School, Silver Street, Great Barford, Beds MK44 3HZ there will be a public meeting when anyone can come and express views on the diocese's needs. Views may also be expressed in writing by 23 June to The Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA. Gavin will attend a Rural Deans' meeting on the subject on 13 June.

Item 12 - Forthcoming synods (7.30pm for 8.00pm)

Monday 6th October in Christ Church. *Vision for Giving*: a joint meeting with Watford Deanery.

Thursday 12th February in Chipperfield. Speaker: The Revd John Kiddle, Diocesan Mission Development Officer.

After the hymn *Name of All Majesty* the meeting closed with the Grace at 9.35pm.

Distribution: All synod members, Jim May, Canon Robin Brown, Nick Alexander (Diocesan PC link), Philip Lovegrove (General Synod link), Margaret Millar (Methodist link), others present.