

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

## SYNOD OFFICERS

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

## Minutes of the meeting in Christ Church, Chorleywood at 8.10pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009

### Members of the House of Clergy (13 current members)

Present (5): Gavin Collins (Rural Dean), Rachel Jenkinson, Miriam Muga, Jim Stevens, David Baverstock.  
Apologies (3): Tim Marshall, Robert Riley-Braley, Mary Kingsley

### Members of the House of Laity (38 current members)

Present (18): Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, Norman Pearce, John Guy, Jeannie Poulton, David Nobbs, John Galloway, Margaret Roberts, Jean Scott, Anne Baron, David Halden, Terence Russoff, John Rhodes, Ann Badhams, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, John Parsons, Alex Twells (Secretary).  
Apologies (8): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), John Stickland, David Williams, Jo Squire, Michael Hart, Sue Hillier, Bill Seddon, Sally Morgan (Treasurer).

### Others

Present (2): Jim Pummell (Rickmansworth), Julia Lawrence (Sarratt),

### Item 1 Welcome, apologies, and opening prayers

Gavin welcomed everyone for coming - in particular new members David Baverstock, Mary Kingsley, and John Parsons - and opened synod with a prayer.

### Item 2. Minutes of deanery synod on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009 (distributed on 12<sup>th</sup> June)

These were approved (proposer: Miriam Muga; seconder Jeannie Poulton), and signed as a true record.

### Item 3. Matters arising

- (Item 4). Discussion on Deanery Strategy is deferred until the next synod.
- (Item 8d). King's Langley parish moved into Hemel Deanery on 1st October, joining the benefice of Langelei.
- (Item 8e). The new vicar of St Andrew's is David White, Holy Trinity, St Austell, Cornwall, who will move to Chorleywood in February and will be inducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### Item 4. Any other business

- John Galloway, the only nominee, will represent the deanery on the Diocesan Board of Finance.
- With the transfer out of King's Langley, the deanery will require a website manager to replace Rus Downham. Alex called for volunteers to contact him. ***[Secretary's note: the transfer will also mean that the deanery's PtO clergy will require a person to represent them on the synod to replace Stephen Flood, who resides in King's Langley.]***
- Alex announced that Nick Alexander, our diocesan link, will be leaving that position at the end of the calendar year. On behalf of synod, he thanked Nick for all his valuable work for the deanery. The earliest date for the announcement of his successor would be following the meeting of the Diocesan Pastoral and Mission Committee in February.
- Gavin announced that he had been invited by Bishop Alan to be an honorary Canon of the cathedral. Synod enthusiastically acclaimed his honour, which he will receive on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November during a special Evensong at 4.00pm. Anyone may attend.

### Item 5. Dates of next deanery event and next synod

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November (St Oswald's) - Dr Bridget Adams of the Kingdom Business School in Watford, will speak on aspects of workplace ministry; she has 25 years experience of the subject. Open to all.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February (St Mary's) - Bishop Alan Smith will address synod at the end of a tour of the deanery.

## Item 6. A Fresh Expressions (FE) presentation by the Revd Tom Gillum of St Jude's Community, South Kensington

Gavin introduced Tom, from the Community of St Jude in London SW10, which he set up in 2005 to focus on discipling with a daily rhythm of prayer, and living close to those on the edges of life. He described how God's Spirit was on the move via new types of church.

FEs - whose role was to help with training and resources - have three characteristics: a strong missionary focus; a willingness to reimagine Church from the perspective of the outside world; and a commitment to existing and new forms of Church.

Why do FEs matter? They embrace a change in patterns of Sunday worship, offering Church at different times; they embrace a change in relationships to incorporate different networks; they embrace change from a single culture to accommodate different cultures; they embrace a knowledge of faith appropriate for beginners; they satisfy a deeper spiritual hunger for explorers.

FEs are part of God's call to mission, a response to the decline of Christendom. They are aimed at the dechurched and those unchurched who are 'open'. They reflect a new way of thinking mission, from a 'go and then come' approach to 'go and then stay'. An FE is a form of Church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church. An FE is based on the principles of listening and service ie incarnational mission. An FE has the potential to become a mature expression of Church.

Tom referred to FE initiatives in churches in the Deanery of Rickmansworth, of which some examples are given below, taken from a letter Alex had sent to Tom earlier ('MSC' = Mission Shaped Community).

Located in deanery parishes	Parish of Christ Church	'The Beacon' café church, meeting in a school
	Parish of St Oswald's	'Café O', meeting in a community hall
	Parish of Sarratt	'Open Door' MSC, meeting in a school and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
	Parish of Bovington	'ASK' café church, meeting in the village hall
	Parish of Mill End	Family Praise gatherings, meeting in the church
Located in parishes outside the Deanery	Parish of St Andrew's	'The Anchor' MSC, meeting in a school, and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
		'WD3' MSC, meeting in a community centre, and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
		'Hand-in-Hand' MSC, for the deaf, meeting in the church lounge
		'Chrysalis' MSC, for other disabled people, meeting in the church lounge
	Parish of Chenies	'The Ark' MSC, meeting in a scout hut and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
	Parish of Chalfont St Peter	'The Way' MSC, meeting in a community centre, and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
	Parishes in Watford	'The Well' MSC, meeting in a school, and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
		'Golden Doors', meeting in a coffee-house, and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
		'Haven', for the homeless who live in dormitory accommodation, run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
	Parish of Eastcote	'Manna', provides breakfast for those living on the streets, run by St Andrew's Chorleywood
	'LBH', meeting in a community centre, and run by St Andrew's Chorleywood	

- Notes**
1. There about a dozen other MSCs, run by St Andrew's Chorleywood, geared either to children, young people, or the elderly.
  2. Also located in the deanery is 'Connect', meeting in a school and run by St Mary's Marylebone.

The meeting broke into small groups to discuss issues such as how to move forward, what about training, how do FEs fit into existing church structures. After that, a number of questions from the floor were addressed.

A leaflet 'Encouraging Fresh Expressions of Church' was given to each person present.

Gavin thanked Tom for his presentation and closed the meeting with the Grace at 9.40pm.

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