

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

SYNOD OFFICERS

Rural Dean:	Revd Canon Gavin Collins, Christ Church Vicarage, The Common, Chorleywood WD3 5SG	01923 282149
Lay Chair:	Duncan Kerr, Lavender Lodge, Nightingales Lane, Chalfont St Giles 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 synod in St Andrew's Church, Chorleywood at 8.00pm on Thursday 21st October 2010

Members of the House of Clergy (11 current members, plus 5 vacancies)

Present (5): Gavin Collins (Rural Dean), Rachel Jenkinson, David White, Robert Riley-Brale, Charles Parry.

Apologies (3): Deborah Snowball, Miriam Mugan, Mary Kingsley.

Members of the House of Laity (36 current members, plus one vacancy)

Present (20): Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, John Stickland, Phil Waive, John Guy, Stephen Lawrence, John Galloway, Jo Squire, Michael Hart, Jean Scott, Anne Baron, Bill Seddon, Nick Vale, Sue Hillier, Sally Morgan (Treasurer). John Rhodes, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, David Cansdale, Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (11): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Ann Badhams, Simon Allard, David Halden, Terence Russoff, David Nobbs, Norman Pearce, David Williams, Jeannie Poulton, Margaret Roberts, Audrey Timberlake.

Others

Present (4): Rev Nicky Pledger, Judith Palfreman, Alan Pledger, Alun Price-Davies (all St Andrew's).

Item 1 Welcome, apologies, and opening prayers

Gavin greeted everyone, thanked St Andrew's for the warm welcome, the light refreshments, and for setting up the church. He opened with a prayer.

[Item 2 was taken immediately after Item 6]

Item 3. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 14th June (distributed on 21st June)

David Nye, the guest speaker, had asked that the first sentence of the penultimate paragraph in Item 5 should be replaced with:

'He reported that, at the end of May, we were about one month behind in parish share receipts. However, that was still slightly better than at the same time last year'.

Allan Brown proposed, and John Galloway seconded, that the third sentence of Item 4a should be moved to Item 4d.

The minutes were then approved and signed as a true record.

Item 4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

Item 5. Any other – urgent - business

a. Gavin reminded everyone that the Memorial Service for the Revd Tim Marshall would be on Sunday, 24th October in St Lawrence, Bovington at 3pm. He expected a very large attendance.

b. Gavin was pleased to announce that Bill Seddon had been elected as one of this diocese's six lay representatives to the House of Laity of the General Synod, for the next five years.

c. *Living God's Love*. This is the umbrella name for a major diocesan initiative. Information had been sent by the diocese to those who took part in the 2010 Lent Challenge. On the website www.livinggodslove.org are comprehensive details of an Advent preparation challenge, a Lent course and challenge, and, perhaps

most important, Mission Action Planning, which will be launched by the Bishop of St Albans on Saturday 15th January at a service in the Abbey. MAP will affect all parishes and heavily influence the deanery's preparation of another *Deanery Review* during the spring and early summer of 2011.

d. Gavin drew attention to the endorsement by the Archdeacon of St Albans of the desire of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust to appoint an Area Member to represent the geographical area of Rickmansworth Deanery, embracing all Christian churches within its boundary. Watford Deanery had been covering Rickmansworth for some years and he was keen for us to have our own person. The work would mainly consist of being a 'flag-bearer' and 'recruiting sergeant' for the Trust. Anyone interested should contact Alex.

Item 6. Date of next synod

a. Gavin announced that there would be an OPEN joint meeting with the Watford Deanery Synod on Thursday 4th November at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church, Bushey Mill Lane, North Watford WD24 7TF, in order to receive views on Women Bishops. To help in understanding the issue and to lead the discussion there will be three main speakers:

Revd Dr Peter Ackroyd	(Vicar, St Mary's, Wooton),
Revd Preb David Houlding	(Vicar, St Stephen's w All Hallows, Hampstead) and
Revd Canon Dr Dennis Stamps	(St Albans Diocese Ministry Development Officer).

b. Our next regular synod will be on Thursday 10th February, venue to be arranged. Gavin asked for a parish to offer itself as the venue and – provisionally - All Saints Croxley Green agreed.

Item 1. Worship in Song

Belinda Patrick, St Andrew's Worship Pastor, led those present in two songs of worship: 'In Christ Alone' and 'Jesus be the Centre'

Item 7 (Parish presentations) and Item 8 (Open prayer in small groups for parishes).

These items were taken together, with the presentations in sets of three, and after each set, prayer for the three parishes in five prayer groups. The presentations were led by Allan Brown (Bovingdon), David Cansdale (Chorleywood Christ Church), David White and Nicky Pledger (St Andrew's); John Galloway (Croxy Green All Saints), Michael Hart (Croxy Green St Oswald), Alan Wills (Mill End); Stephen Lawrence (Sarratt), Phil Waine (Chipperfield), John Rhodes (Rickmansworth).

It was apparent and encouraging that most, if not all, of the parishes were placing a high priority on mission, both towards people who made use of the church facilities without actually worshipping there, and towards people of all age groups completely outside the church. There was much else to celebrate in all parishes, although ongoing prayer was needed for Bovingdon and Mill End as they enter periods of vacancy; Christ Church as it undergoes a major building extension; and St Andrew's, as it enters a new phase of its history under David White.

Gavin closed the synod at 9.40pm with a reading of selected verses from Philippians 4, followed by the Grace.

Distribution: All synod members, others present, The Ven Jonathan Smith, Jim May, Chris Davey (Diocese link), Margaret Millar (Methodist link), churchwardens of parishes without clergy.