

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 Holy Cross Church, Sarratt at 8.00pm on Monday 13th June 2011

Members of the House of Clergy (11 current members)

Present (5): Gavin Collins (Rural Dean), Rachel Jenkinson, Deborah Snowball, Jim Stevens, Robert Riley-Braleay.
Apologies (3): Miriam Mugan, Mary Kingsley, Charles Parry. Others absent (3)

Members of the House of Laity (34 current members)

Present (26): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Allan Brown, Caroline Wainman, Linda Clough, John Guy, Stephen Lawrence, Audrey Timberlake, John Galloway, Jo Squire, Rupert Barnes, Tony Barton, Janet Anders, Anne Baron, Ruth Barr, Gilda Conrich, Beryl Baker, Suzanne Powell, Jim Pummell, John Rhodes, Ann Badhams, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, Bill Seddon, David Cansdale, John Parsons, Alex Twells (Secretary).
Apologies (4): Pauline Brown, David Nobbs, Terence Russoff, Sally Morgan (Treasurer). Others absent (4)

2. Act of Worship

To commemorate the first synod of the new triennium, Jim Stevens led Synod in *Come Holy Ghost, our Souls Inspire*, followed by a reading (Acts 11), a short talk, prayers, Collects, and the hymn *Come down O Love, divine*.

1. Welcome, apologies, opening prayers

Gavin welcomed everyone, especially those newly elected to the synod, and thanked Jim Stevens for arranging the act of worship and his team for preparing the light refreshments.

9a. Election by both Houses of the Secretary.

This sub-item was brought forward to facilitate the taking of minutes. Alex Twells was proposed by David Cansdale, seconded by Linda Clough, and elected unopposed. He was warmly thanked for his past work as secretary.

3. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 10th February (distributed on 14th February)

In Item 1, Line 2, *Living God's Life* was amended to *Living God's Love* and similarly in the last line. In Item 7, sub-para b(1)A Line 3, Gen 3:27-28 was amended to Gal 3:27-28. The minutes were then signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising (other than Items 5 – 12 below) None.

5. Co-option. A motion (proposed by Duncan Kerr, seconded by Alex Twells) that Sally Morgan be co-opted as an additional member of the House of Laity, was passed unanimously.

6. Recognition of the ex-officio members of the new Synod

These are Bill Seddon (General Synod) and David Cansdale, John Parsons, and Alex Twells (all Diocesan Synod).

7. Recognition of one PtO clergy person to represent all PtO clergy.

After contacting all ten PtO clergy, Alex reported that Canon Charles Parry had been chosen unopposed.

8. Election by House of Laity of the Lay Chair.

Duncan Kerr was proposed by Stephen Lawrence, seconded by Jim Pummell, and elected unanimously.

9b. Election by both Houses of the Treasurer.

Sally Morgan was proposed by Anne Baron, seconded by Beryl Baker, and elected unanimously.

10. Election by each parish's members in both Houses of its representative on the new DSPC.

The following had been chosen by each parish's synod members to represent the parish on the new DSPC: Bovingdon – Allan Brown; Christ Church – Audrey Timberlake; St Andrew's – Janet Anders; All Saints – Revd Miriam Mugan; Mill End – Ann Badhams. The remaining parishes (St Oswald's, Rickmansworth, Sarratt, and Chipperfield) had still to choose. Alex would write to them, stating that it would be most desirable if each chose its

representative within the next seven days and notified him accordingly. The next DSPC meeting would be on 12th July, at which a decision would be taken on the dates and times of DSPC meetings for the next 18 months.

11. Receive the 2011 Deanery Review.

The Review looked forward as well as backward, in particular embracing Mission Action Plans and the need for each parish to have produced a MAP by the time of its 2012 APCM. Bishop Alan's Pentecost letter refers; this included reference to a Diocesan MAP presentation in All Saints, South Oxhey on 27th September. Synod received the Review, which would be open to minor amendment until 20th June; suggested changes to be sent to Alex.

12. Receive the Deanery Accounts for 2010.

These were formally received by Synod (Proposer: Jim Stevens; seconder Allan Brown). In future years, they would be examined by a person outside the synod. Thanks were expressed to Sally for her work as Treasurer. Gavin said the DSPC was open to receipt of proposals to spend money (if available) on worthwhile projects.

13. Date of next synod (3rd November)

This was a revised date. The Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford, would be the speaker.

14. Any other business

a. Gavin announced that he had been appointed Archdeacon of The Meon, in Portsmouth Diocese. He expected that his successor would be known soon, with the installation service held before the Synod on 3rd November.

b. Andy Reid, an ordinand from Trinity College, Bristol, would join St Andrew's after being made deacon on 3rd July. The Revd Simon Cutmore, vicar of Leverstock Green in the benefice of Langelei in Hemel Deanery, would be installed as priest-in-charge of Mill End on 13th July at 7.00pm in St Peter's by the Bishop of Hertford. The Revd Charles Burch, an NSM in St John's Harpenden, had been appointed half-time vicar of Bovingdon, sharing his time with serving as Diocesan Vocations Officer; his licensing date was not yet fixed. The Revd Rachel Jenkinson, after completing her 4-year 1st curacy at Christ Church, would join St Andrew's as Associate Vicar in the late autumn.

c. Alex reminded Synod that if a parish wanted to change its Parish Share Factor from 2013, they had until 1st July to notify Gavin or Duncan accordingly.

d. John Parsons asked about the current position concerning The Anglican Communion Covenant. Gavin replied that deaneries had been asked to consider the matter and respond to the diocese by 5th December, and the outgoing DSPC had decided to leave consideration until this autumn. Bill Seddon offered to send a PowerPoint presentation describing the Covenant to anyone interested.

e. Rachel reported that the second Week of Guided Prayer had been held, and to everyone who took part it was, like last year's Week, a great blessing. She hoped there would be another such Week in 2012.

f. John Galloway asked whether stronger links between Chapter and Synod might be established. Gavin pointed out that Chapter was mainly for support and fellowship among clergy. Specific issues were discussed, but he assured Synod that the DSPC was never left out of the loop.

g. Allan Brown asked for prayer that the planned – and much needed – St Lawrence Community Hall for the village of Bovingdon would pass through all its consultative and decision-making stages with minimal interruption.

h. Duncan formally thanked Jim for his short talk, Alex for his devoted work as secretary, and, of course, Gavin for everything he had done in leading the deanery for the past five years. Synod wished him well and enthusiastically applauded him. Gavin responded by saying how much he had valued getting to see the breadth of parishes within the deanery. He took satisfaction at how the clergy position had improved, even though it was at such a late date in his time as Rural Dean! He paid a specific tribute to the way retired clergy were willing to help so much in all the deanery's parishes, not just those in a period of vacancy. He thanked everyone for their support and fellowship, and said how much it had been a privilege to have been Rural Dean of Rickmansworth. He had confidence in the continued building of God's kingdom here.

15. Closing prayer

Gavin closed the synod at 9.15pm with 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.