

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

## SYNOD OFFICERS

<b>Rural Dean:</b>	The Revd Deborah Snowball, The Vicarage, Bury Lane, Rickmansworth WD3 1ED	01923 772627
<b>Lay Chairman:</b>	Duncan Kerr, Lavender Lodge, Nightingales Lane, Chalfont St Giles 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

## Minutes of the Synod in St Andrew's, Chorleywood at 8.00pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

### Members of the House of Clergy (14 current members)

Present (6): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), Jim Stevens, David White, Rachel Jenkinson, Andy Reid, Charles Parry.

Apologies (4): Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Mary Kingsley, Miriam Muga. Others absent: (4)

### Members of the House of Laity (35 current members)

Present (24): Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, Caroline Wainman, David Nobbs, John Guy, Stephen Lawrence, David Cansdale, Audrey Timberlake, Jo Squire, Rupert Barnes, Tony Barton, Janet Anders, Ruth Barr, Terence Russoff, Beryl Baker, Jim Pummell, John Rhodes, John Marsh, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, Bill Seddon, John Parsons, Sally Morgan (Treasurer), Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (8): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chairman), Linda Clough, John Galloway, David Williams, Anne Baron, Gilda Conrich, Suzanne Powell, Alistair Harper. Others absent: (3)

### Observers

Present (6): Robert Freeman, Judith Palfreman, Joy McLaren, Lucy Turner, Yvonne Walker, Joanna Webb (all St Andrew's),

### 1. Act of Worship, led by Deborah

After the hymn *I give you all the honour* Stephen Lawrence read John 15:18-21, David White spoke on the life/teaching of Polycarp, 2<sup>nd</sup> C martyr, Jim Stevens led prayers, and the Worship ended with the hymn *Here I am Lord*.

### 2. Welcome and apologies

Deborah welcomed everyone, and thanked the team from St Andrew's for the delicious light refreshments, Judith for accompanying the hymn-singing, and Keith for the audio-visual arrangements.

She also welcomed the Revd Daniel Bond – who was not present - as a new Synod member. Formerly chaplain of Aldenham School, he had succeeded Richard Bolton as chaplain of Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood. Deborah then read out the names of those who had submitted apologies in advance.

### 3. Presentation by Steve Tipping, National Development Manager, Christians Against Poverty

Steve, from Halifax but now based in Margate, began by telling his own dramatic story of how, in 1974, he saw no way out of his debt problem other than to drink himself to death. Sensitive advice and constructive help saved him.

Through a DVD, he showed how debt can lead to illness, sometimes destructive illness. 33% of CAP's debt clients seriously consider suicide, 66% struggle to feed themselves, and 80% live in fear. Since its foundation in 1996, CAP, whose aim is to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help, has assisted 45,000 people. There are 190 centres in the UK (the aim is to reach 500 by 2015).

Steve related how, compared with 50 years ago, people have lost control of managing their money; no longer do they limit their spending to what they possess. CAP acts like a paramedic, coming to the aid of people going under. Also, it has credibility and employs trained professionals in the Bradford Head Office to advise volunteers who come alongside clients. The local church is uniquely positioned to engage with people, setting a household budget, drafting letters, but most of all facing up to creditors and presenting them with a convincing repayment plan for the individual. Steve said creditors want to help people and they trust CAP to satisfy both parties' needs, even if it takes years.

When he had finished speaking, Steve fielded about a dozen questions from the floor, reflecting the depth of response to his presentation. He then distributed free copies of *Nevertheless*, a book telling the amazing story of the mission of one man - John Kirkby, the founder CAP - to change thousands of lives. Deborah thanked Steve and led Synod in a prayer. [*Secretary's note: the retirement offering totalled £478.50*].

### 4. Presentation by the Revd Coralie McCluskey, Herts co-ordinator for Farm Crisis Network

Deborah announced that, because of illness, Coralie had cancelled her visit. She would be invited to a future Synod.

**5. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 3<sup>rd</sup> November** - accepted and signed as a true record.

**6. Matters arising** - None.

### 7. Report by Bill Seddon on February's General Synod (written report distributed prior to meeting)

Bill asked Synod members to pass on the written report to their PCC members. He drew attention briefly to three matters: (1) The Synod's aim to achieve unity during the continuing debate on women bishops; (2) The substantial

increase in fees for weddings and funerals; (3) The many links that General Synod has to other bodies, which are illuminating and challenging. Details may be found on the CofE website.

Deborah thanked Bill for both his written and oral reports.

### **8. Deanery Ascension Day Service (17<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm, St Thomas' West Hyde)**

Simon Cutmore is co-ordinating this and it is intended that all parishes will participate in what will be a Service of Holy Communion. Ascension Day is a major Church Festival and it is hoped the church will be full, especially as parishes would not hold their own Services that day. Deborah emphasised the need for car-sharing as parking space is limited.

### **9. Diocesan Synod Elections**

The Rural Dean is Presiding Officer for elections to the House of Laity, with the Lay Chair Presiding Officer for the House of Clergy. Near the end of April, Alex will send members the blank nomination papers and details of procedures. There will be two weeks for completion of nominations. He said that Rickmansworth has 3 seats in the House of Clergy and 5 in the House of Laity, each one fewer than now because of the loss of King's Langley parish.

Deborah added that nominations are open to anyone on a Church Electoral Roll.

David Cansdale said that membership of the Diocesan Synod is the best route for anyone aspiring to membership of one of the numerous Diocesan boards and committees.

### **10. Summer 2012 Mission Opportunities**

#### **a. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

All parish churches are ideally placed to take a lead in celebrations and other events to serve their communities. Rickmansworth and Sarratt reported that they were arranging community events over the weekend.

#### **b. Open Church Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> June)**

Two-thirds of parishes in the Diocese intend to open their churches on 24<sup>th</sup> June, the day after the annual Alban Pilgrimage. Sarratt is doing so, but the overall response from the Herts part of the Diocese is disappointing. Alex relayed the Diocesan line that the opening (with activities) of a church on another Sunday was commendable but it should be as well as opening on 24<sup>th</sup> June. He also said that our Deanery is not represented on the archdeaconry group pursuing better practice in the Ministry of Welcome; anyone interested should contact him.

#### **c. London 2012 Olympic Games**

The CofE's *More than Gold* initiative brings parishes the opportunity to host families from abroad and help in other ways. Mission opportunities also lie in community events, possibly church-led, with an Olympic theme. Deborah said that some of our parishes, in particular Chorleywood (Christ Church, St Andrew's and Connect) and Rickmansworth are working on this. There is still time for those that have not done so to start planning now.

### **11. Any other business**

a. Christ Church. The Revd David Hall, 45, vicar of All Saints Danehill with Chelwood Gate, East Sussex, has been appointed vicar. He has a wife and four children and his institution will be at 6.30pm on Saturday 1st September.

b. Conference in Welwyn. On 14<sup>th</sup> March, Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union and author of a recent independent report to HM Government, will speak on *Letting Children be Children*, part of an evening devoted to an exploration of issues surrounding the commercialisation of childhood. Alex will send details with the Minutes.

c. Come and Sing Gospel. On 15<sup>th</sup> March, Ken Burton, a charismatic singing leader, will be in concert in St Andrew's. Alex will send details with the Minutes.

d. Lent. David White informed Synod that the Bible was being read from the lectern in St Andrew's throughout Lent by volunteers, 20 minutes at a time. Members of other churches were invited to book a slot on the timetable in the foyer.

e. David Saville. David Cansdale announced that David Saville, Vicar of Christ Church (1980-1990) and Rural Dean of Rickmansworth (1986-1990), had died on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### **12. Date and content of next Synod (21<sup>st</sup> June, 7.30pm for 8.00 St Lawrence Bovington) – Note date change**

a. During the first half, a speaker from the Christian Environmental Consultancy will address Synod;

b. In the second, each parish is invited to make a 5-minute report on progress made in response to Bishop Alan's call for preparation of a Mission Action Plan (target date April).

### **13. Closing prayer**

Deborah closed the Synod at 9.50pm with prayers of thanks to God for the Queen's faithful obedience and devoted Service to her peoples, and for the vision of CAP, that its work will continue to prosper; the Grace ended proceedings.

*Distribution: All Synod members, others present, The Ven Jonathan Smith, Jim May, Rev'd Chris Davey (Diocese link), Rev'd Gill Hulme (Methodist link), Churchwardens of parishes without clergy.*

(sgd) Rural Dean