

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

SYNOD OFFICERS

Rural Dean:	The Revd Deborah Snowball, The Vicarage, Bury Lane, Rickmansworth WD3 1ED	01923 772627
Lay Chairman:	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 Lawrence's Church, Bovington at 8pm on Thursday 21st June 2012

Members of the House of Clergy (14 current members)

Present (8): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Miriam Mугan, Jim Stevens, Jenny Sumpter, David White, Andy Reid.

Apologies (3): Rachel Jenkinson, Mary Kingsley, Charles Parry.

Others absent: (3)

Members of the House of Laity (35 current members)

Present (22): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chairman), Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, David Nobbs, Linda Clough, John Guy, David Cansdale, Audrey Timberlake, Rupert Barnes, Tony Barton, Janet Anders, Ruth Barr, Terence Russoff, Beryl Baker, Suzanne Powell, Jim Pummell, John Rhodes, Ann Badhams, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, John Parsons, Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (11): Sally Morgan (Treasurer), Caroline Wainman, Stephen Lawrence, Brian Smith, John Galloway, Jo Squire, David Williams, Anne Baron, Gilda Conrich, John Marsh, Bill Seddon.

Others absent: (2)

1. Act of Worship, led by Duncan

After the hymn *Come, thou long expected Jesus*, Pauline Brown read Romans 10:11-21, Charles Burch led prayers, and the Worship ended with the hymn *As the deer pants for the water*, followed by the Grace.

2. Welcome and apologies

Duncan welcomed everyone, thanked the team from St Lawrence's for the light refreshments, and read out the names of those who had submitted apologies in advance. He welcomed Alice Jupp, whom the Bishop of Hertford had 'warmly commended as someone who understands environmental issues and who understands the Church'.

3. Presentation by Alice Jupp, a Christian environmental consultant

Alice divided her presentation into three parts.

First, (scary) science. The dramatically increasing amounts of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere may be relatively small but they are having a major (greenhouse) effect of global warming, which much of the media has misrepresented.

Second, theology. God's creation was excellent (Gen 1:31); everything within it was God's (1Chron 29:11) but He gave humans the right to tend and look after it (Gen 2:15). Are we mismanaging it?

Third, what can I do? An individual can do little, but if every one of us did something, the total impact can make a difference. 'Be a light in the darkness', Alice said, 'be people of faith, lead by example. Do a church audit (perhaps invite herself to do it) covering the 'green' effects of all features of church property and all aspects of life and activity. Grow your church green!'

The interest in the subject that Alice generated was apparent from the dozen or so questions from synod members. Duncan thanked her for her presentation.

4. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 23rd February

These were accepted and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising

a. (Item 9) Diocesan Synod Elections

Duncan Kerr, Presiding Officer for elections to the House of Clergy, announced that, for the three places, he had received three nominations: Simon Cutmore, Miriam Mугan, Deborah Snowball. He declared them duly elected.

Deborah Snowball, Presiding Officer for elections to the House of Laity, announced that, for the five places, she had received four nominations: David Cansdale, Duncan Kerr, John Rhodes, and Alex Twells. Having declared these duly elected, she invited nominations for the remaining place, to reach her by noon on Friday 29th June. If there were an election, this would need to be completed by 14th July.

David Cansdale reminded Synod that in the autumn the Deanery's representative on the important Diocesan Board of Finance will need to be appointed, and the person must be a lay member of the Diocesan Synod.

b. (Item 10b) Open Church Sunday (24 June). Alex had some residual lists of the 116 Herts churches to be open.

c. (Item 11a) Christ Church. David Hall's institution by the Bishop of St Albans and induction by the Archdeacon of St Albans will be at 6.30pm on Saturday 1st September in Christ Church.

6. Annual Deanery Accounts for 2011

The Accounts had been examined by Douglas Paterson, MA FCA, from outside the synod. Audrey Timberlake proposed, and Robert Riley-Braleay seconded, that the Accounts be received, which they were unanimously. Synod thanked Sally for her work as Treasurer.

7. Parish Presentations on Progress of Mission Action Planning (MAP)

Rickmansworth. Suzanne Powell reported that much progress had been made. Aims had been determined, and five goals set for actioning.

Mill End. Simon Cutmore reported that the MAP was finished and had been uploaded to the diocesan website on 9th May.

Croxley Green St Oswald. Robert Riley-Braleay said that progress was continuing. Data had been collected, three aims set and three key priorities agreed.

Croxley Green All Saints. Miriam Mугan stated that planning and priority-setting had been completed, and five goals for action had been established.

St Andrew's. Janet Anders outlined progress so far, which was still at the early stage of seeking the views of the congregation and representatives of the local community. Key goals will be set in September at a PCC away-day. The forecast MAP completion date is next spring.

Sarratt & Chipperfield. Linda Clough said that both parishes were in the early stages of looking and discerning.

Christ Church. Audrey Timberlake reported considerable progress. From information gathered, a PCC away-day had established four priorities, and three goals for implementation had been agreed.

Bovingdon. Allan Brown stated that the church had begun its MAP work relatively recently. A survey had been issued to which replies were currently being received and processed.

Deborah summed up by noting the pleasingly large amount of work done, in every parish. The plans were exciting, in particular reflecting connections made with people outside the churches. The progress made in some parishes should inspire those still with some way to go. An interesting variety of priorities was emerging and it will be instructive eventually to read all the MAPs on the *Living God's Love* website.

8. Autumn Pilgrimage (3rd October)

Deborah announced that, with the aim of Deanery church members to know one another better, the Deanery had arranged an evening pilgrimage in St Albans Cathedral on Wednesday 3rd October. It would comprise: Buffet (7pm), Prayer Trail (7.45), Compline and procession to shrine (9pm), Finish (9.30). Alex had distributed posters to churches and Deborah asked those present to ensure that maximum publicity was given. As stated on the poster, cheques (£6 per head) should be sent to Sally Morgan of St Mary's, by 31st August.

9. Any other business

a. St Andrew's. Andy Reid will be ordained priest at 4pm in St Albans Cathedral on Saturday 30th June.

b. Jim Stevens. On 22nd July Jim leaves Sarratt and Chipperfield on retirement from full-time service. Synod thanked him for his commitment over the past seven years, and prayed for him and his family.

c. Back-to-Church Sunday (30th September). The event has proved in recent years to be a very worthwhile initiative. It was noted that this year every parish in the deanery planned to participate fully.

d. Deanery Quiz Evening. This quiz (possibly inter-church) is another event that the DSPC is seeking to organise which it hopes will interest people in order to continue fostering a sense of belonging across the deanery. Alex has so far received only three responses to his request to fix a venue between mid-January and 9th February on a Friday or Saturday evening. Deborah asked for further replies.

10. Date of next synod

This will be on 25th October, 7.30pm for 8.00 (venue to be arranged). The guest speaker is the Revd Coralie McCluskey, Herts co-ordinator for *Farm Crisis Network*. There will also be a talk on *Vocation* by a senior member of the diocese.

Deborah asked churches whether any of them could host the synod on 25th October, and if so, to inform Alex.

11. Closing Prayer

Jim Stevens led the synod in prayer, bringing the proceedings to an end at 9.55pm.

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

(sgd) Rural Dean