

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
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Secretary:	Alex Twells, 12 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth WD3 5QT	01923 448167

Minutes of the Synod in St Andrew's, Chorleywood at 8pm, Tuesday 15th October 2013

Members of the House of Clergy (14 current members)

Present (4): Charles Burch, Robert Riley-Brale, David White, Rachel Jenkinson.

Apologies (7): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), Andy Reid, Michele du Saire, David Hall, Dave Short, Simon Cutmore, Charles Parry. Others absent: (3)

Members of the House of Laity (35 current members)

Present (20): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chairman), Allan Brown, Linda Clough, Ian Brocklesby, Audrey Timberlake, Anne Oke, Rupert Barnes, Janet Anders, Anne Baron, Gilda Conrich, Judith Palfreman, Terence Russoff, Gill Gowing, Suzanne Powell, Ann Badhams, John Marsh, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, Bill Seddon, Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (12): Pauline Brown, Caroline Wainman, David Nobbs, Maggie Goldthorpe, Tony Barton, Jane Brading, Beryl Baker, Suzanne Powell, Jim Pummell, David Cansdale, John Parsons, John Rhodes Others absent: (3)

Observers

Present (6): Diana Bird, Lucy Turner, Edith Twells, Keith Patrick (all St Andrew's), David Logan (St Margaret's Streatley), Gillian Wheatley (Holy Trinity Weston)

Apologies (2): Richard Lyne (DMPC Link), Revd Linda Woollacott

1. Opening Worship

The hymn *In Christ Alone*, was followed by a reading (Eph 3:14-end) by Terence Russoff, a word by David White commemorating St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582), Saint of the Day, and prayers led by Rachel Jenkinson.

2. Welcome

In his welcome Duncan named two new members: Rev David Short (Christ Church) and Revd John Quill (Royal Masonic School). Thanks were given to members of St Andrew's for the refreshments and setting up the church..

3. Presentation: 'Ministering to Older People' by the Diocesan Community Care Group

Lynda Logan, Secretary of the Group, stated its purpose: 'to help and support parishes and deaneries in their ministries to people who are all too often marginalised and isolated from the local communities in which they live'.

What do we mean by 'older people'?

Her definition was those over 60, of whom there will be over 20m in the UK by 2031. By then, life expectancy from birth will be 82.6 (men) and 87 (women).

How do we see Older People?

3.8m live alone, and 40% have a long-standing illness. 16% of people aged 65-74 provide unpaid care for relatives and friends. 60% of older people in the UK report that age discrimination exists in their daily lives. 76% of older people believe the UK fails to make good use of their skills and talents.

47% of church attendees are over 65, with another 21% over 55.

What are our attitudes towards older people?

Do we see them: as a burden; taking more out of the economy than they put in; the wealthy generation; propping up the Church financially?

Do we: stereotype them as a group with the same characteristics; see each person as an individual; make efforts to include all older people in the life of the Church?

Care Homes

There are 3,836 nursing, and 10,445 residential, homes for older people in the UK. 95% of residents are over 65. Do parishes give enough priority to the growing numbers of older people? A recent diocesan conference was attended by only 25 (7.5%) out of 334 parishes in the diocese. Only 18% returned the questionnaire. Only 84 of 442 care homes in the diocese received ministry. Only 4% of MAPs mentioned older people as a priority. Staff and residents of care homes that receive ministry believe that the service could be much improved.

Lynda emphasised the huge challenge facing parishes to engage more closely and passionately with residents of care homes and make them feel part of a wider Christian community.

In thanking her, Duncan posed the question for the deanery: 'What do we do next?'

4. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 25th June

An amendment had been received from the Revd Mary Kingsley, asking that the second sentence of Item 10 be replaced with: 'It is with a heavy heart that I leave the deanery' she said, 'as it has been "my patch" for a long time.'

I am looking forward to my post as assistant priest and feel a real sense of calling to that ministry in Bushey.'

After being amended, the minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

a. (Item 5c) Ministry of Welcome

Alex said that all parishes should by now have appointed a co-ordinator to cover the full extent of the Ministry of Welcome, not merely hospitality. Chipperfield, Mill End, and Sarratt, however, appear not yet to have done so:

He publicised a Training Morning for Welcome, organised by Watford Deanery, on 16th November, 9.30am-1pm in St Luke's Church. He strongly advised parish members who are - or will be - involved in Welcome, to attend.

b. (Item 8b) Deanery Autumn Event.

Duncan announced that there will not be an autumn event but the DSPC continues to seek suitable opportunities to enable synod members to grow in their faith and enjoy fellowship. If anyone has an idea please contact Alex.

6. Pastoral Matters

Dave Short has been ordained (30th June) and is now assistant curate at Christ Church. From 1st September John Quill is permanent chaplain at the Royal Masonic School. Mary Kingsley has moved from All Saints to Bushey Benefice. Rachel Jenkinson is marrying on 2nd November, and Synod gave her its congratulations.

7. Mission Action Plans

Alex reported that all parishes except Sarratt now have their MAP on the diocesan website, although those of Christ Church and Chipperfield are incomplete. The DSPC had noted that one parish's MAP was quite verbose, making it difficult to focus on the 'SMART' goals. Also, it seemed that some parishes had not thoroughly gone into preparation involving congregation and community in developing their MAPs. It is now necessary to review progress towards achieving the 'SMART' goals set down.

Rickmansworth's next *Deanery Review* is due in July 2015 and, like all deaneries, it will need to frame its *Review* around parishes' MAPs, so these will need to be up to date and collated into a Deanery MAP, as outlined on the diocesan website. It is hoped that the DMAP will reflect how parishes engage with and support one another.

8. Synod Reports

a. General Synod, 5-9th July - Bill Seddon summarised the synod and updated the ongoing issues.

b. Diocesan Synod, 12th October - Alex reported that the Diocesan Synod had voted to:

- (1) Retain the formula for the elections to deanery synods next spring. Because of falls in Electoral Roll membership, St Andrew's will reduce from five to four representatives and Mill End from four to three;
- (2) Accredite the diocese as a Living Wage Employer by the Living Wage Foundation. This will apply to the diocese's own employees and contractors. Parishes will be encouraged to apply the Living Wage to their employees and contractors;
- (3) Increase clergy stipends by 2% from 1st April 2014;
- (4) Approve the diocesan budget for 2014, which means Parish Shares will increase by 2.51%.

9. Any other business

a. Centenary Celebration 2014

To mark the centenary of the incorporation of Bedfordshire in the diocese, there will be an all-age celebration at Keysoe, near St Neots, on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August. Bishop Alan hopes all deaneries will support it.

b. Saints & Pilgrims

Alex drew attention to the diocesan website for details of this new book by Bishop Alan, set out in 366 pages facilitating a year's daily devotions, commemorating faithful Christians from the diocese who have made a major impact in 'living God's love'.

c. First World War

If any parish next summer wants to commemorate the outbreak of WW1, *Praxis*, an organisation that equips people to create, lead and participate in appropriate acts of worship, is holding a Training Day on 30th October in Southwark Cathedral for those interested. Details on the Praxis website.

d. International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, 3rd November

As part of this Day, *Christian Solidarity Worldwide* will be holding a number of special events so that Christians can gather together and pray. Locally, the nearest event, with special guest speakers, will be at Christ Church, 7pm-9pm, and this may be of interest to any parish not holding its own evening service.

9. Next synod (Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm for 8.00, venue tbc)

The speaker will be Chris Wainman, Diocesan Mission Resourcing Officer.

10. Closing prayers

In closing at 9.50pm, Duncan led Synod in the *Living God's Love* prayer.

Distribution: All Synod members, others present, Richard Lyne (DMPC link), The Revd Linda Woollacott (Methodist link), The Ven Jonathan Smith, Emma Critchley (P&A Sec).

(sgd) Rural Dean