

# 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>	Rupert Barnes 4 Rugby Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3PH	01923 897875
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alex Twells, 12 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth WD3 5QT	01923 448167

## Minutes of the Synod in St Oswald's, Croxley Green, 8pm, Tuesday 25th February 2014

### Members of the House of Clergy (15 current members)

Present (8): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Michele du Saire, Rachel Gibson, David Hall, Robert Riley-Braleley, Charles Parry.

Apologies (4): Miriam Mugan, Andy Reid, David Short, David White Others absent: (3)

### Members of the House of Laity (34 current members)

Present (25): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chairman), Pauline Brown, Caroline Wainman, David Nobbs, Linda Clough, Audrey Timberlake, Fran Bennett, Anne Oke, Rupert Barnes, Tony Barton, Jane Brading, Janet Anders, Gilda Conrich, Terence Russoff, Beryl Baker, Gill Gowing, Suzanne Powell, Jim Pummell, John Marsh, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, Bill Seddon, John Parsons, John Rhodes, Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (4): Allan Brown, Ian Brocklesby, Maggie Goldthorpe, Judith Palfreman. Others absent: (5)

### Observers

Present (5): Revd Fiona Gibson (Christ Church, Bedford), Hazel Croft (St Andrew's), Karen Pryse (St Oswald's), Colin Plummer (Sarratt), Chris Wainman (Bovingdon). Apols (1): Revd Linda Woollacott (Methodist)

## 1. Opening Worship

Robert Riley-Braleley led the Opening Worship which included the hymn *Come let us join our cheerful song*, Psalm 39, Rev 22:1-2, and a time of prayer.

**2. Welcome:** Deborah welcomed everybody and thanked St Oswald's for the refreshments offered.

## 3. Presentation by Chris Wainman on his work as Diocesan Mission Resourcing Officer

Deborah introduced Chris, a member of St Lawrence Bovingdon, whose role is to support parishes across the Diocese in resourcing mission and ministry.

He said that effective mission depended on how well we knew each other in the deanery, and tested this - not too seriously - with a quiz. He then quoted some statistics, derived from the Spotlight pages of the diocesan website. Tax-efficient planned giving per person per week, for example, was (in 2011) £16 in the deanery, £12 in the diocese, and £11 nationally. In small groups, synod then considered (a) the characteristics of a good giver - Chris listed 24 - (b) what blocks exist to giving - Chris listed over 40 - (c) ideas to bridge this gap - Chris listed 22.

Stewardship was a key ingredient for achieving mission aims: we are called to give generously, proportionately and sacrificially. Giving to each other and sharing resources is a problematical area but the diocese can assist with advice on mission resourcing to PCCs and Parish Treasurers. The deanery could develop a network of Treasurers and stewardship officers. Also, there is a range of courses available (contact the Parish Development Team); Chris recommended the *Encouraging Legacy Giving* workshop on 17th March in St Albans at 7.30pm.

In answer to questions, Chris had no example to quote of parishes sharing resources other than sharing a paid youth leader and local clergy exchanging pulpits occasionally. As for churches getting to know one another better, it did appear unfortunately that joint events tended to attract the same faces each time.

**4. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 15th October 2013:** These were accepted and signed as a true record.

## 5. Matters Arising

### c. (Item 5a) *Celebrate 100*

Deborah introduced the Revd Fiona Gibson, a member of the organising team for *Celebrate 100*. Fiona gave a short presentation on the family event, which will be on August Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August, at Keysoe, Bedfordshire from 10am to 5pm. Fiona spoke enthusiastically about the activities. These include a dog display team, free fairground attractions, pony rides, a classic car show, speakers such as Dr Jeffrey John and Canon J John, the singer Jonathan Veira, *It's a Knockout*, fairground, bouncy castles, music, choirs, demonstrations and workshops in flower arranging, icon painting, embroidery, calligraphy and stained-glass making, and much more. People can eat at one of the food/drink outlets, or bring their own picnic and relax in the 60 acres of beautiful Bedfordshire countryside, before everyone gathers at 3pm in a Eucharist to thank God for the 100 years since Bedfordshire joined the diocese.

Bishop Alan hopes that all deaneries will be represented, and to this end each will have a 'champion' (Alex in our case) to provide a conduit for information to flow in both directions. He needs to learn, however, urgently, the name of a 'champion' for each parish who will publicise the event and encourage participation or attendance.

Synod thanked Fiona for her talk and for making the journey from Bedford.

a. (Item 5c) Ministry of Welcome

Open Church Sunday is on 22nd June, and Deborah encouraged Synod members to track the Diocesan website to ascertain which churches will be open, and to try attend one or more, particularly if their own church is not open.

b. (Item 8b) Deanery Event.

Deborah announced that two events before the next synod will be the Deanery Confirmation Service in Bovingdon on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, and the Deanery Ascension Day service, at All Saints' Croxley Green, on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 8pm. She encourage members and parishes to support both events and to advertise the Ascension Day Service widely.

Provisionally arranged for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July is a Deanery Quiet Evening, venue tbc.

## **6. Pastoral Matters**

At Petertide, David Short of Christ Church will be priested, and Jairo Nyaongo will be made a deacon. He is to serve as Assistant Curate in the Parish of Mill End and West Hyde with Heronsgate. Helen Ford is to be licensed in July as a Reader and will serve in the Parish of Mill End and West Hyde with Heronsgate.

## **7. Mission Action Plans**

Deborah thanked the Parishes for all the demanding work put in creating and developing their MAPs. Some parishes are more advanced than others. It is quite hard to (a) update the information and (b) relate any updates to previous MAPs – this is to be fed back to the Diocese.

The next round of *Deanery Reviews* will be based on parishes' MAPs so all need to be completed asap.

## **8, Deanery Accounts for 2013**

Rupert distributed copies of the Accounts. He explained that the balance on the account reflected accrued Expense Account balances pre-2012, which will be used for general Deanery expenditure. When this amount is reduced to a lower amount, a decision on a parish levy would be made. Simon Cutmore proposed, and Charles Burch seconded, the motion 'that the Accounts of the Deanery of Rickmansworth for 2013 be received.' The motion was passed unanimously, with the proviso that the Accounts would be independently examined by 1st May.

## **9. Reports on General Synod meetings in November and February**

Only the February report - concerned exclusively with women bishops - gave rise to discussion, although Bill Seddon orally commented on all the topics. His full written report would be distributed in a day or two.

## **10. Women in the Episcopate - note by the Deanery Secretary**

Alex's note summarised the current position. This Synod Meeting was the last opportunity for comment on the new legislation. On 15th March, the Diocesan Synod will vote to approve the necessary changes to legislation. The final votes will be with the General Synod in July, and Parliament, probably in the autumn.

A short discussion revealed support both for and against (with the latter being in regard for the provisions made for those who do not agree with the ordination of women to the episcopate). She asked whether Synod wanted a show of hands and, as a majority did, a sounding was taken, which resulted in twenty-six people supporting the Motion to be put to the Diocesan Synod and seven against.

## **11. Revised synod dates 2014**

Due to changes for various Clergy, the only day that any clergy do not have off is Thursday, therefore Deanery Synod meetings will be held on that day in future. The remaining two in 2014 will be on 26<sup>th</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## **12. Any other business**

Deborah noted that that this Synod Meeting marked the end of the current Triennium and that there will be fresh elections to Synod at this year's APCMs. She thanked everyone for their support over the past three years, not least Duncan (Lay Chair) and Alex Twells (Secretary), and expressed her best wishes for those retiring from membership.

In respect of forthcoming APCMs Deborah said it was important that elections to the Deanery Synod precede elections to the PCC so that the same person is not elected under both options. In answer to a question, she confirmed that there was no limit on the number of consecutive years a person may serve on the Deanery Synod.

## **13. Closing prayer**

Deborah led Synod in the *Living God's Love* prayer, followed by the Grace, and the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

*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