

# 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 Paul's, Chipperfield, 8pm, Thursday 26th June 2014

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

Present (6): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Michele du Saire, Rachel Gibson, Miriam Mugan.

Apologies (3): David White, David Short, Charles Parry.

Others absent (5)

### Members of the House of Laity (31 current members)

Present (23): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, Ivan Carter, Judy Olney, Maggie Goldthorpe, Michael Lench, Rupert Barnes, Jane Brading, Fran Bennett, Jo Gardner, Sam Devadoss, Clare Endicott-Johnson, Geoffrey Roberts, Janet Anders, Les Palmer, Terence Russoff, John Marsh, Julie Shepherd, Bill Seddon, David Cansdale, John Parsons, Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (8): Phil Waive, Tony Barton, Anne Oke, Gill Gowing, Andrew Farr, Judith Palfreman, Alan Wills, John Rhodes.

### Observers

Present (0)      Apologies (1): Revd Linda Woollacott (Methodist Link)

**1. Opening Worship** The Rector of Sarratt and Chipperfield, The Rev'd Michele du Saire, led the Opening Worship which included the hymn *O Breath of life*, readings from Psalm 39, Matthew 9, and liturgy and prayers from the *Celtic Daily Prayer*.

### 2. Welcome

The Rural Dean welcomed everybody to this, the first meeting of the new Triennium, and thanked St Paul's for the light refreshments. To provide an opportunity for people to introduce themselves to one another, to contrast and compare their respective churches, to note strengths and weaknesses, and to assess the prospects for closer co-operation – members of Synod formed into small groups for discussion.

### 3. Election by both Houses of the Secretary

Alex Twells, proposed by Alan Wills, seconded by Duncan Kerr, was elected unopposed.

**4. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 25th February 2014** These were accepted and signed as a true record.

### 5. Matters Arising (other than items below)

a. (Item 8) Deanery Accounts . These had been independently examined, and signed on 16th May.

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

Deborah explained the hierarchical structure of Synodical government, and stated that those who serve on higher-level Synods have an automatic ex-officio place on levels below. Bill Seddon represents the Diocese on General Synod, and Duncan Kerr, David Cansdale, Alex Twells, John Rhodes and John Parsons represent the Deanery as Lay Members of Diocesan Synod. Simon Cutmore, Miriam Mugan and Deborah herself represent the Deanery as Clergy Members of Diocesan Synod.

### 7. Other Elections

a. Lay Joint Chair. Duncan Kerr, proposed by Alex Twells, seconded by Janet Anders, was elected unopposed.

b. Treasurer. Rupert Barnes, proposed by Miriam Mugan, seconded by Charles Burch, was elected unopposed.

c. Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee. Deborah explained that, in similar fashion to some other Deaneries, Rickmansworth operates a combined Standing and Pastoral Committee. Each Parish had chosen one person to be its representative, and Deborah announced the names: Charles Burch (Bovingdon), Michele du Saire (Chipperfield), Michael Lench (Sarratt), Jane Brading (St Oswald's), Miriam Mugan (All Saints), Gill Gowing (Rickmansworth), Clare Endicott-Johnson (Christ Church), Janet Anders (St Andrew's) and Simon Cutmore (Mill End with Heronsgate and West Hyde).

d. Unlicensed clergyperson. For every ten unlicensed clergy who are designated as Permitted to Officiate and who serve in the Deanery, one place is available on a Deanery Synod. Our Deanery has nine such clergy and Charles Parry, alone in putting his name forward, was duly elected.

### 8. Presentation by the Rural Dean relating to 2015 Deanery Review/Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP)

The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee calls for a Review by each Deanery every four years. The next is due in 2015 and Deborah summarised its purpose: to consider the Deanery in light of its churches, geography, needs, etc; what they do well; how they might develop together, sharing resources and skills; how people might be co-ordinated effectively in tasks; and how future needs inform the structuring of posts and people, including

possible pastoral re-organisation. It is not about any one church having all the answers, or producing outcomes that are pre-determined, or merely a paper exercise, or only involving the clergy. It is asking what could be achieved; expressing what is needed; and learning, teaching and growing together in love and service.

Similar to a Parish MAP, the process is in five phases, ie

- (1) Look - take a fresh approach; gather statistics; see what's going on; prepare a profile of the Deanery
- (2) Discern - what God is calling us to do; build on Parish MAPs; determine how the Deanery might be a unit for mission, learning and development; form a vision
- (3) Plan - create 'SMART' goals; consider how stipendiary posts might be used; form recommendations
- (4) Act - communicate the DMAP within the Deanery; check what works well or needs changing; present DMAP to Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) in July 2015 (provisionally 2nd)
- (5) Review - after its presentation to the DMPC, discuss the Review at a DSPC meeting with the Archdeacon and Pastoral Secretary, noting what did or did not go well.

A Working Group, headed by Miriam Mughan, is to meet monthly from July to April, comprising one representative from each Parish. Parishes were asked to provide a name of a person - who could be a DSPC member - to Miriam in time to attend the first meeting on 16th July. Deborah then led Synod in a new prayer that she had written for the meeting:

*Heavenly Father, we praise you for the life and witness of each of the Parishes in our Deanery. We thank you for the gifts and the skills with which you have blessed each person with whom we serve, witness, and worship. We pray that you will continue to pour out upon us and our churches the gifts of your Holy Spirit, enabling us to listen and to love, to serve and to be served, and in all our actions to reach out to your world in obedience to your command to make disciples of all the nations. Amen.*

## 9. Reports on Diocesan Synods held on 15th March and 14th June

Deborah invited comment on the two reports. One question concerned the apparent lack of clarity in the report on same-sex 'marriage', but John Parsons could add little as he too was unclear of the Diocesan Policy. A second comment concerned the *Season of Invitation* (see Item 10c below).

## 10. Future Dates

### a. Deanery

(1) Deborah announced that on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July there would be an Evening of Spiritual Refreshment at Christ Church, open to all (£5). Parishes had been sent details. It would begin at 7.15pm with a light supper, followed at 7.45pm with a quiet time of reading scripture, prayer, and meditation, ending at 9.30pm. To book a place people should phone the St Mary's Office (01923 721002).

(2) The next Deanery Synod will be on Thursday 30th October at 7.30pm for 8.00pm, venue to be arranged.

### b. Diocese

(1) Deborah announced that a service would be held in the Cathedral at 4.00pm on 26th July to say farewell to Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford, prior to his move to be the next Bishop of Liverpool.

(2) There are eight weeks to *Celebrate 100*, the Diocesan family fun-day at Keysoe on 25th August, celebrating the incorporation of Bedfordshire into the Diocese in 1914. Parishes will have received much promotional material covering a wide range of events, including children's activities. Deborah encouraged Parishes to communicate with each other about sharing motor coaches and supplying members to an *It's a Knock-out* Deanery team.

### c. Other: A Season of Invitation

Since 2004, Back-to-Church Sunday has been a key event in many Parishes in late September, but it is now seen as being rather isolated. Instead the Diocese is encouraging Parishes to invite friends who do not attend Church to a series of events: Back-to-Church Sunday, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas, making up a *Season of Invitation*. Parishes are encouraged to do this and register via the Diocesan website. It is a simple initiative - merely two stages: (1) Pray as to whom to invite, and (2) Act by inviting them to each occasion.

## 11. Any other business

a. General Synod. Responding to a question by Rachel Gibson, Bill Seddon said he would pursue her concern that pension arrangements were unsatisfactory for clergy retiring early on grounds of ill-health. He would try to ask a question at the July Synod. Deborah said that the normal mechanism for a matter aired at Parish level was for it to be passed formally at PCC, Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod before reaching the General Synod.

b. On 28 June David Short of Christ Church will be priested, and on 29 June Jairo Nyaongo will be made a Deacon. He is to serve as Assistant Curate in the Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde. Helen Ford is to be licensed on 6th July as a Reader in the same Parish. Deborah asked Synod to pray for all three.

## 12. Closing prayer

Synod ended with the *Celebrate 100* prayer, followed by the Grace, and the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

*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