

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 Christ Church Chorleywood, 8pm, Thurs 19th Feb 2015

Members of the House of Clergy (15 current members)

Present (6): Miriam Mugan (Actg Rural Dean) David Hall Charles Burch Rachel Gibson Jairo Nyaongo Charles Parry
Apologies (7): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), David White, Andy Reid, David Short, Michel du Saire, Simon Cutmore, Robert Riley-Braley. Others absent (2)

Members of the House of Laity (33 current members)

Present (22): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, Ivan Carter, Maggie Goldthorpe, Tony Barton, Fran Bennett, Anne Oke, Simon Allard, Darryl Sharp, Sam Devadoss, Clare Endicott-Johnson, Andrew Farr, Geoffrey Roberts, Janet Anders, Judith Palfreman, Terence Russoff, John Marsh, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, John Rhodes, Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (8): Michael Lench, Rupert Barnes, Jane Brading, Jo Gardner, Gill Gowing, Les Palmer, Bill Seddon, John Parsons. Others absent (3)

Observers Present (1) Simon Jones (St Andrew's) Apologies (1) Linda Woollacott (Methodist Link)

1. Opening Worship

The Vicar of Christ Church, the Revd David Hall, began with prayer, followed by a reading (Exodus 15:22-27) and a short talk on miracles. The worship ended with another prayer.

2. Welcome

Miriam welcomed everybody, particularly David Nye and new members Simon Allard and Darryl Sharp (both of Rickmansworth), and read out apologies already received.

3. Talk by David Nye, Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance

David began by thanking the deanery for its contribution (about £500,000 pa) to the diocesan budget of £14.5m, but pointed out that St Albans was one of the lowest dioceses for per capita giving (£468pa per member, well below the target of 5% of net income). 85% of diocesan income accrued through Parish Share, and 87% of expenditure went on parochial mission and ministry. There were 240 incumbents and curates and the cost of a stipendiary priest was £52,065 (of which the stipend was £25,473). The diocese was committed to an annual increase of one stipendiary priest, modest when the flood of retirements takes effect in a few years' time. Carlisle diocese was already looking ahead by implementing a scheme to reduce its 270 parishes to about 40 'mission units'. David called for a greater focus on giving and stewardship in the forward planning of every parish, and recommended the Church Growth Research Programme's report *From Anecdote to Evidence* of March 2014.

4. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 30th October 2014

These were accepted and signed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising (other than items below)

None.

6. Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP)

Miriam Mugan reported as follows:

1. The October Synod discussion had revealed that better communication across member churches was a top priority, and the main areas of work/ministry to undertake collaboratively were training courses (eg Safeguarding, Healing, Teaching) and support to nursing homes. Finally, the key area of mission and ministry to be considered for inclusion in the DMAP was social action (eg Food-banks, advice, CAP) and ministry to care homes and the elderly/housebound.

2. The Diocesan DMAP adviser had said we were on the right track but needed to include more information on finance. He also suggested a SWOT analysis, which was subsequently done by consulting members. [Note: The ideas submitted will be sent to synod members separately from these minutes].

3. The Diocese has asked us to focus on:

a. How we might identify and encourage opportunities for spiritual and numerical growth (including further opportunities for learning; Local Ministry Development teams; and vocations).

Response - Retreat in Daily Life; joint worship Ascension Day ... perhaps broaden

b. Our mission partnerships (between Anglican churches, and with churches of other denominations and agencies) and how these might contribute to mission.

Response - St Mary's LEP with the Methodists; Detonate (Children's Summer Club in Chorleywood); Youth project with Mill End Baptists; Churches Together in Rickmansworth, Croxley Green; Good Friday Walks of Witness; Christian Aid; Christmas Story (Bovingdon); Love Croxley (Joint churches initiative); Remembrance Services - community mission.

c. Action regarding parishes that have not regularly provided up-to-date returns on finance and membership statistics.

Response - Almost all parishes were now up to speed.

Miriam said the next step was to produce a draft of DMAP for consultation.

7. Motion on Clergy Pensions

Rachel Gibson updated synod on the progress that she and Bill Seddon had made in relation to changes in clergy pensions. They are awaiting responses to letters that they have written seeking clarification of the pension guidelines and will provide a detailed update to the next Deanery Synod.

8. Financial Matters

a. Deanery Accounts for 2014.

These will be ready for the next synod.

b.. Parish Share Factor (PSF) Review.

Miriam confirmed that there will be no change in PSFs for 2016-2018.

c. Statement of Payment of Parish Shares 2014 (Final).

The document was noted.

d. Parish Returns.

Miriam thanked Treasurers for their submissions, almost all of which were now up to date.

9. Deanery-wide Events

a. Deanery Quiz Evening, 24th January.

This was cancelled through lack of support.

b. Deanery Ascension Day Service at St Andrew's, 14th May.

Alex had sent out publicity material.

c. Retreat in Daily Life 21st-28th June.

There were still vacancies on this. Details had been sent to parishes.

d. General Election 7th May.

Parishes have been informed of the planned hustings in Croxley Green (date and location tbc). They have been asked to send to Alex names of volunteers willing to help on the day.

10. Diocese-wide Events

a. Living God's Love Inside Out.

There will be a Diocesan roadshow at St Luke's Watford - one of six in the diocese - on 9th May (9am-1pm) exploring local mission. Information: Carol Chisnall 01727 818148.

b. Visit by Justin Welby.

Details of the Archbishop's visit to the diocese (18-20 June) would be issued soon.

c. Elections to Diocesan Synod 2015-2018.

Alex would issue a description of synodical processes and procedures and Deborah and Duncan (Presiding Officers) would request nominations (to fill 4 Clergy seats, 5 Lay).

11. National Church Events

Bill Seddon had sent his apologies to this meeting, and his reports on the November and February synods will be an agenda item at the next synod. Alex will send these out.

12. Pastoral Matters

Deborah's Extended Study Leave will end on 10th April.

13. Any other business

John Rhodes publicised a course: *Leading Intercessions at Holy Communion* on 7th March (9.30am-1) at St Mary's, led by Revd Jeanette Gosney, Dioc Parish Dev Officer. Details: St Mary's website.

14. Closing Prayer

Miriam led with the Rickmansworth Deanery Synod prayer, and closed the meeting with the Grace at 9.35pm.

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