

# 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 28th May 2015

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

Present (5): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean) Miriam Mугan, Michele du Saire, David Short, Jairo Nyaongo  
Apologies (6): David Hall, David White, Charles Burch, Robert Riley-Braley, Simon Cutmore, Charles Parry.  
Others absent (3)

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

Present (18): Rupert Barnes, Bob Shearer, Jane Brading, Fran Bennett, Patricia Benoy, Simon Allard, Jane Earl, Clare Endicott-Johnson, Andrew Farr, Geoffrey Roberts, Tim Fowkes, Terence Russoff, John Marsh, Alan Wills, John Rhodes, John Parsons, Bill Seddon, Alex Twells (Secretary).  
Apologies (15): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, Tony Barton, Pam Dawson, Judy Olney, Phil Waive, Anne Oke, Gill Gowing, Darryl Sharp, Sam Devadoss, Judith Palfreman, Les Palmer, Julie Shepherd, David Cansdale.  
Others absent (1)

### 1. Opening Worship

The Revd Michele du Saire, rector of Sarratt and Chipperfield, opened with prayer. Then followed the hymn *Refiner's Fire*, a reading (Luke 9:51ff), a short talk and the hymn *Faithful One* all ending with the Lord's Prayer.

### 2. Welcome

Deborah welcomed everybody, especially the Synod's five new members, and read out apologies already received. She thanked St Paul's for the light refreshments.

### 3. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 19 February 2015

After deletion of Jairo Nyaongo from the list of those present, these were accepted and signed as a true record.

### 4. Matters Arising (other than items below) None.

### 5. Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP)

Miriam Mугan presented the team's latest draft. A point was made concerning the absence of SMART goals and this was taken. Miriam invited comments from Synod members not later than 30 June. The final version will then be distributed to all members soon after the DSPC meeting on 9 July, and the DMAP will be presented to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee on 1 October.

Deborah thanked Miriam and her group for the work they had achieved.

### 6. Ill-health Benefits for Clergy

Bill Seddon presented the topic, the revised title of which reflected the subject matter more closely. Some useful progress had been made, in particular the commitment by the Pensions Board to publish an explanatory booklet on ill-health provision, but there was an impasse in other areas that Bill had explored. After discussion, it was agreed that the issue would not be presented as a formal motion to the Deanery or Diocesan Synod but instead Bill would ask a further question at General Synod following up, in his words 'the recommendation made in 2010 to give further detailed consideration to insuring for ill-health benefits outside the pension fund'.

### 7. Financial Matters

#### a. Deanery Accounts for 2014.

After a short presentation, John Rhodes proposed, and Simon Allard seconded, that 'that the Accounts of the Deanery of Rickmansworth for 2014 be received'. This was passed unanimously.

#### b. Parish Returns.

As the Deanery's representative on the Diocesan Board of Finance, John Parsons thanked Parish Treasurers for their ongoing co-operation in submitting returns, and particularly looked forward to early receipt of outstanding copies of Accounts for 2014.

### 8. Deanery-wide Events

#### a. Deanery Ascension Day Service, 14 May

Deborah thanked St Andrew's for the lovely service and complimented Geoffrey Marshall-Taylor for his sermon. There would be another Ascension Day Service, the sixth, in 2016 (venue not yet decided).

#### b. Retreat in Daily Life 21st-28th June

Deborah announced that there would be 20 participants, with about six or seven guides for the week.

c. Deanery EGP (Equipping God's People) Advocates

The Diocese had asked each Deanery to nominate an EGP Advocate to act as a link between the Deanery and the Diocese in promoting courses for lay and ordained people. The gist of the work is co-ordination and communication. She asked Synod members to put the idea to their PCCs in order to find someone to represent the Deanery, advertising it in their churches if necessary.

d. DSPC Vacancy

With the resignation of Janet Anders, there is a vacancy for a representative of St Andrew's on the DSPC. Deborah said that she would approach David White to discuss this matter.

e. Rickmansworth Wedding Show

Without going into detail, Deborah announced that the Deanery would have a stand at the annual Wedding Show on 11 October in Watersmeet, Rickmansworth.

## 9. Diocese-wide Events

a. Diocesan Synod Report: March 2015 There were no questions.

b. Diocesan Synod Election Results: House of Laity

Four nominations were received for five vacancies so they were elected unopposed: Duncan Kerr, John Parsons, John Rhodes and Alex Twells. They will serve from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.

c. Diocesan Synod Election Results: House of Clergy

Three nominations were received for the four vacancies so they were elected unopposed: Simon Cutmore, Robert Riley-Braley and Deborah Snowball. They will serve from 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018.

d. Visit by the Archbishop, of Canterbury

Synod members had been informed of the programme and the three opportunities to hear Justin Welby speak (18 June and twice on 20 June).

## 10. National Church Events

a. General Synod Reports: November 2014 and February 2015

There were no questions but Bill Seddon gave notice that, arising from a discussion in the February General Synod, each Diocese was to be asked to develop a Discipleship Action Plan for implementation at Diocesan, Deanery and Parochial level.

b. General Synod Election 2015

Bill Seddon, who intends to stand for election again, announced that St Albans would have five vacancies, a reduction of one, for the tenth Synod (2015-2020). Papers would be sent to the electorate (members of Deanery Synods) by 21 July, the closing date for nominations was 4 September, issue of voting papers 18 September, and return of papers by 9 October. The count would be between 12 and 15 October. Bill said that there would be a husting to supplement the biographical material of those standing, and emphasised how important it was to get to know something of those standing in order to make best use of his/her vote. Of course, he hoped he would receive the Rickmansworth Deanery's support!

## 11. Pastoral Matters

a. New Bishop of Hertford

Deborah announced that the Revd Canon Michael Beasley, Director of Mission in the Diocese of Oxford, had been installed as Bishop of Hertford on 16 May.

b. Deanery Clergy

After serving as Assistant Curate at Christ Church and then Associate Vicar at St Andrew's, Rachel Gibson had left St Andrew's and would become Rector of St Clement's, Oxford in July. Andy Reid's official four-year period as Assistant Curate at St Andrew's had ended and he would be moving elsewhere very soon.

## 12. Any other business None

## 13. Closing Prayer

Deborah led with the Rickmansworth Deanery Synod Prayer before closing the meeting 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