

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
Lay Chairman:	Duncan Kerr, Lavender Lodge, Nightingales Lane, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4SR	01494 763481
Treasurer:	Rupert Barnes 4 Rugby Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3PH	01923 897875
Secretary:	Alex Twells, 12 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth WD3 5QT	01923 448167

Minutes of the Synod in St Lawrence's Bovingdon, 8pm, Thurs 24 September 2015

Members of the House of Clergy (13 current members)

Present (7): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Michele du Saire, Miriam Mugan, Charles Parry, Robert Riley-Braleay.

Apologies (3): Jairo Nyaongo, David Short, David White. Others absent (3)

Members of the House of Laity (32 current members)

Present (15): Pauline Brown, Ivan Carter, Judy Olney, Phil Waine, Bob Shearer, Tony Barton, Jane Brading, Anne Oke, Jane Earl, Clare Endicott, Geoffrey Roberts, Les Palmer, Alan Wills, Bill Seddon, Alex Twells (Secretary)

Apologies (15): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Allan Brown, Rupert Barnes, Pam Dawson, Fran Bennett, Patricia Benoy, Darryl Sharp, Sam Devadoss, Judith Palfreman, Tim Fowkes, Terence Russoff, Julie Shepherd, John Parsons, John Marsh, John Rhodes. Others absent (2)

Observers

Apologies (1): Rev Linda Woollacott (Methodist link)

- Opening Worship** - The Revd Charles Burch, Vicar of Bovingdon, opened with prayer. Then followed the hymn *Take my life and let it be*, ending with further prayers.
- Welcome**
Deborah welcomed everybody and read out apologies already received. After thanking St Lawrence's for the light refreshments, she announced the death in August of the former synod member Bernard Bell of Mill End. Bernard was a member from 1999 to 2011, during which time he served on the Deanery Pastoral Committee (2002-2005), Deanery Plan Development Group (2002-2005) and DSPC (2005-2011). Condolences were offered to his family.
- Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 28 May 2015** - accepted and signed as a true record.
- Matters Arising (other than items below)**
 - (Item 8c) Deanery Advocate for Equipping God's People. There had not yet been a discussion at Clergy Chapter and Deborah repeated her appeal at the last Synod for members to ask around their PCCs and Parishes for a volunteer to act as a link between Deanery and Diocese to promote courses for lay and ordained people.
 - (Item 8d) DSPC Vacancies. The nominations of Judy Olney (Chipperfield) and Les Palmer (St Andrew's) to represent their Parishes on the DSPC were confirmed.
 - (Item 10b) General Synod House of Laity Election. The Diocese had sent details, including election addresses, to synod members, who constitute the electorate. The Diocese has five places to fill; Bill Seddon of this Deanery is standing again and would welcome all our votes. His election address contains a link to his website which contains the latest correspondence concerning ill-health benefits for clergy, which synod discussed on 28 May.
- Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP)**
Miriam Mugan distributed copies of the final version, to be presented to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee on 1 October. Deborah thanked Miriam and her group for the work they had achieved. Synod then went into small groups to gather ideas for the four goals listed in the DMAP:
 - To continue developing opportunities for churches in the Deanery to join together for spiritual development, worship and social activities (*Going Deeper into God, Making New Disciples, Transforming Communities*)
 - To broaden opportunities for joint training especially in the areas of Safeguarding, Healing Ministry and Evangelism (*Transforming Communities*)
 - To explore how, as churches, we can provide appropriate support to those living with dementia and other age-related conditions (*Transforming Communities*)
 - To continue to develop ecumenical links across the Deanery (*Going Deeper into God, Transforming Communities*)

There will be four Working Parties, each to work on one of the goals. Everyone was asked to identify which of the four DMAP Working Parties they would like to be part of, giving their first and second choice. Alex would send the request for nomination of preferences to all lay members not present.

6. Financial Matters

- a. Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). The Diocesan Board of Finance has approved that the Diocese will adopt and join PGS and that three Parishes are to take part in an introductory phase.
- b. Parish Returns. Monthly payments by churches of their Parish share is mostly well maintained. The Diocese is especially grateful for those Parishes that pay by direct debit. The Diocese looks forward to St Andrew's making additional contributions through the autumn.

7. Deanery-wide Events

- a. Retreat in Daily Life 21st-28th June. Deborah reported that 17 people had participated, with six Guides. Feedback from all was positive. It would be beneficial if lay members of churches across the Deanery joined in organising the Week.
- b. Pastoral Grants. Deborah reminded synod that the closing date for her to receive applications is 16 October.
- c. Dates of Future Meetings. Deborah announced that future Synods will continue to be held three times annually at four-monthly intervals (Monday in February, Wednesday in June, Thursday in October) and DSPC meetings similarly one month later but on a Tuesday, Thursday and Wednesday. **Synods in 2016 would therefore be on 8 February, 8 June, 6 October and DSPC meetings on 8 March, 7 July, 9 November.**
- d. Deanery Quiz Evening, 6 February 2016. This proposal was discussed and agreed. Administrative details needed to be settled very soon, with publicity beginning not later than November. The venue would be St Oswald's, which is available on the date.
- e. Deanery Ascension Day Service 2016. This will take place on 6 May, venue tba.
- f. 'Arts' Evening. After discussion it was agreed that, in view of the crowded calendar, Open Church Sunday provided the best opportunity for a date rather than a weekday evening. Every Parish is encouraged to arrange an event on Sunday 19 June 2016 reflecting some aspect of art (in the broadest sense of the word).
- g. Deborah said that the Deanery would not have a stand at the Wedding Show on 11 October in Watersmeet, Rickmansworth and asked Parishes to consider other ideas and bring them to synod. Some of these may come from the DMAP process.

8. Diocese-wide Events

- a. Visit of Archbishop Justin Welby 18-20 June - feedback. A number of people from the Deanery had attended one or more of the events and the general consensus was that these were a time of great blessing.
- b. Diocesan Synod Report: June 2015 This was received without comment.
- c. Diocesan Synod Election: House of Laity Vacancy. Deborah announced that after a second round of voting, John Marsh had been elected unopposed. He will serve until 31 July 2018. Synod applauded his success.
- d. Diocesan Board of Finance: election of Deanery representative. John Parsons, the retiring member, had indicated he would stand again. No one else was proposed so he was elected unopposed, to serve from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2018.

9. National Church Events - General Synod Report: July 2015. This was received without comment.

10. Pastoral Matters

The Revd Andy Reid, having served as Curate at St Andrew's, Chorleywood since 2011, has been appointed Rector of St Peter's Musselburgh and will leave St Andrew's on 8 November. Also, Canon David White, Vicar at St Andrew's, Chorleywood since 2010, will leave St Andrew's on 22 May 2016 and move to Bodmin, from where he will continue in ministry, preaching, teaching and helping the Church in Cornwall and beyond, without the responsibility of leading a local church.

11. Any other business

- a. Charles Burch distributed notices of *Music From the Time of Agincourt* with dramatic readings, at St Lawrence Bovingdon, 7:30pm Saturday 17 October. £12 Tel 07756 562720.
- b. Simon Cutmore announced that John Marsh will be giving the Autumn Lecture at St Peter's Mill End on *The Delusions of Atheism* on Tuesday 20th October at 8pm.
- c. Simon gave advance notice that there would be a Parish Mission at Mill End from 18-25 September 2016 and would value everyone's prayers. Bishop Michael Beasley will be a leader.
- d. Simon also said that his youth leaders were willing to speak at Synod if required.
- e. Robert Riley-Braley publicised the Christian Aid Book Day at Croxley Baptist, 8:30am onwards, 10 October.

12. Closing Prayer

Deborah led prayers for three synod members who were very ill, ending with the Grace, and closing synod at 9.30pm.

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