

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 St Peter's Mill End, 8pm, Monday 8 February 2016

Members of the House of Clergy (13 current members)

Present (7): Deborah Snowball (Rural Dean), Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Michele du Saire, Jairo Nyaongo, David Short Charles Parry,

Apologies (2): David Hall, Miriam Mugan.

Others absent (4)

Members of the House of Laity (32 current members)

Present (16): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Pam Dawson, Judy Olney, Bob Shearer, Rupert Barnes, Tony Barton, Patricia Benoy, Anne Oke, Jane Earl, Andrew Farr, Judith Palfreman, Terence Russoff, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, John Parsons, Alex Twells (Secretary)

Apologies (12): Allan Brown, Pauline Brown, Phil Waine, Jane Brading, Fran Bennett, Sam Devadoss, Clare Endicott, Les Palmer, Tim Fowkes, Bill Seddon, John Marsh, John Rhodes.

Others absent (4)

Observers

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

1. Opening Worship

Led by The Revd Simon Cutmore, Vicar of Mill End & Heronsgate with West Hyde, the worship opened with the song *Ten Thousand Reasons* followed by a contemplative video, short Lent study, ending with the Lenten Prayer of St Ephrem.

2. Welcome

Deborah welcomed everybody to what was the first Synod held at St Peter's since 2006, and she thanked St Peter's for the light refreshments. After reading out apologies already received she welcomed Pam Dawson, who was attending her first Synod since her election in 2015. Deborah then announced the death in December of Nigel Sylvester, a Reader and former member of the Diocesan and Deanery Synods and the Diocesan Board of Finance. Deborah led prayers for Nigel, as well as for Tim Fowkes and John Rhodes, both very ill.

3. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 24 September 2015

After amendment of the date in Item 7e to 5 May these were accepted and signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising (other than items below)

a. (Item 4a) Deanery Advocate for Equipping God's People. A volunteer was still required to act as a link between Deanery and Diocese to promote courses for Lay and Ordained people.

b. (Item 4c) General Synod Election. Deborah led Synod in congratulating Bill Seddon on his election to the General Synod for another five years, which was announced in October. He has since been appointed as the General Synod representative for the Rickmansworth Deanery.

c. (Item 7e) Deanery Ascension Day Service. This will be held on Thursday 5 May in St Paul's Chipperfield, starting at 8pm. Michele has invited each Parish to contribute to the Service, in particular by sending people to participate in the musical and choral items.

5. Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP)

a. Meeting with DMPC 1st October. No formal feedback had been received, but the presentation was well received and Deborah had heard informally that the Deanery's DMAP could be a model for others.

b. DMAP Goals. Deborah thanked the four Working Groups for the prompt way SMART goals had been set for their respective areas for the next 3-5 years – as well as beginning the task of achieving them. She drew attention to the fact that many Synod members were not in groups and encourage members present to join if they had not already done so, and to encourage others to do likewise. Notes of each group meeting were available to the whole Synod, which then spent time in small groups studying them. This was followed by a short open debate. Groups' progress would be monitored at each future Synod.

6. Financial Matters

a. Parish Giving Scheme. Bovingdon and Sarratt had fully implemented the scheme with effect from 1st February and progress was satisfactory. Fuller reports would be given at the next Synod. John Parsons suggested that any Parish considering joining the scheme could contact Chris Wainman, Diocesan Mission Resourcing Officer. Chris is willing to make a presentation to any Parish so interested.

b. Parish Share Matters. Eight of the Deanery's nine Parishes had fully paid their share for 2015 and were to be congratulated. St Andrew's paid 84%.

c. Pastoral Grants. None for 2016 was received from Parishes by the Rural Dean. Deborah explained the opportunity for a Parish to claim a grant from the Diocese. Although the closing date for applying will probably again be in October, work should begin as soon as the Diocese's letter is received in August. The Diocesan website has detailed information.

7. Deanery-wide Events

a. Retreat in Daily Life. Deborah said that this may be held next year.

b. Deanery Quiz Evening. This was held on 6th February and was an enjoyable occasion. 53 attended and Deborah congratulated Bovingdon who won (again) and thanked St Oswald's for being the hosts. She hoped that another Parish might be willing to run/host the quiz next time. DMAP Goal Group No. 3 might take this into its planning.

c. Other Ideas for a Social Event. This item will now be left for consideration by DMAP Goal Group 3.

8. Diocese-wide Events

a. Diocesan Synod 17 October 2015. A report had been distributed, which was accepted.

b. Open Church Sunday. Nothing has yet been received from the Diocese as to whether there will be an Open Church Sunday this year. The probable date would be 19 June but HM The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations over the weekend 10-12 June might take precedence (see Item 9b).

9. National Church Events

a. General Synod November 2015. A report had been distributed, which was accepted.

b. HM The Queen's 90th Birthday. All Parishes have been asked to arrange celebratory Services and events during the weekend 10-12 June. Full details are on the Diocesan website. In addition a 64-page booklet is being printed for offer to Parishes in March, of which wide distribution is requested.

10. Pastoral Matters

a. St Andrew's. David White will leave his post at St Andrew's on 22nd May..

11. Any other business

a. Refugee Aid. Duncan Kerr spoke on the pressing problem of the world's homeless refugees (perhaps one million in total). There are several ways of doing this, and some of the Deanery's churches have been active for some time in providing clothing (and finance to help cover the cost of transportation) through local authorities and a number of charities which are extremely active; details of these may be found online. Duncan said it would be a help if Parishes informed Alex of what they were doing so that he can spread the word.

b. Bishop's Visit. Deborah announced that on Monday 7 November one of the Diocese's three bishops would make an all-day visit to the Deanery to share in what our Parishes have been doing under the broad heading of the Diocese's *Living God's Love* initiative since it was launched in 2011. Further details to follow.

c. Reading Luke Allowed! Michele du Saire announced that on Saturday 20th February - after 'butties' at 8:45am - there would be formal reading of the whole of Luke's gospel in the Parish Room, Chipperfield, beginning at 9:15am. All invited.

12. Closing Prayer

Deborah led Synod in prayer, followed by the Grace, and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Forthcoming meetings: Deanery Synod 8 June, 6 October, 6 February;
 DSPC 8 March, 7 July, 9 November.

Distribution: All Synod members, others present, Deanery PCC Secretaries, Richard Lyne (DMPC link), The Revd Linda Woollacott (Methodist link), The Ven Jonathan Smith, Emma Critchley (P&A)

(sgd) Rural Dean