

RICKMANSWORTH DEANERY SYNOD

Rural Dean:	The Revd. David Hall, The Vicarage, Christ Church, Chorleywood, Herts	01923-282149
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Minutes of the Synod in Christ Church, Chorleywood, Tuesday 7th February 2017

Members of the House of Clergy (9 Current members)

Present (5): Tim Horlock, Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Jairo Nyaongo, Charles Parry

Apologies (6): David Hall, Robert Riley-Braley, Michele du Saire, Deborah Snowball, Dave Jones, Simon Woodmore

Members of the House of Laity (29 current members)

Present (17): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Les Palmer, Andrew Farr, John Rhodes, Bob Shearer, Judy Olney, Julie Shepherd, Pamela Dawson, Jane Brading, Phillipa Maddox, Tony Barton, Anne Oke, Fran Bennett, Bill Seddon, Rupert Barnes, John Parsons, Alan Wills

Apologies (9): Allan and Pauline Brown, Terence Russoff, Clare Endicott-Johnson, Ivan Carter, Jim Pummel, Geoff Roberts, Sam Devadoss, Phil Waine, Others absent (7)

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

The meeting opened at 8pm with Duncan Kerr chairing the meeting.

2. Opening Worship

Tim Horlock shared a scripture – 1 Peter Ch. 2 Vs. 4 ‘The Living Stone’. Tim gave his testimony by telling three short stories which illustrated that everyone should keep praying, and reminded members that ‘God fixes things’. His message was about perseverance.

3. Minutes of the Deanery Synod October 6th 2016

A correction was pointed out to 5 (a) – It should read ‘**It was reported** that the dementia MAP group have organised an event at St Paul’s focusing on dementia, at which **Jacqui Sheppard** will be speaking.’ Otherwise they were accepted and signed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

a. Duncan proposed that we remembered Alex Twells who died a few weeks ago. Charles Parry reported that David Williams had died that day. He was a Reader, and a past member of our Deanery synod. The meeting paused for a moment and reflected and gave thanks for the lives of Alex and David.

b. Review of deanery responses to the refugee crisis

It was reported that the Samara Appeal had been very successful providing relief and support to refugees in France. The group has church and non-church members within it

and illustrates that there are excellent links across the community. Simon Cutmore also stated that the container outside the William Penn centre is still open for donations which will be transported to the Lebanon. Les Palmer informed the meeting that the Chorleywood Facebook page has some photos of all the clothing being sorted at St Andrew's church, and showing the container being loaded before it departed for France.

5. Deanery Mission Action Plan

a. DMAP groups met on Saturday February 4th. Since then, the minutes have been distributed to all deanery members. Charles Burch thought the morning was very helpful and that progress in this important area of ministry, was being made. Charles pointed out that deanery elections will be happening soon, and that some members will be standing down. He suggested that it would be preferential if some members could carry on with DMAP to provide some continuity, even if they are not a deanery member.

b. Any Updates

It was reported that each church's PCC need to pass a resolution as soon as possible, which will relate to safeguarding. Simon Cutmore stated that Jeremy (known as Jez) Hirst could advise everyone.

Duncan said that following on from the Bishop's visit to All Saints last November, he urged that parishes should pay particular attention to their own parish MAPs and see whether they need amendment or refreshment. The Bishop referred to a commitment form which Duncan said was available for anyone who might need one.

It was reported that there have been a number MAP workshops around the diocese and that there would be a day-time one taking place in February at St Luke's Church Watford. All were encouraged to speak to Dave Middlebrook if they are interested in attending. It was discussed that it would be of interest to incorporate MAP group presentations into the Agenda occasionally.

6. Financial matters

Rupert Barnes reported that David Hall, as Rural Dean is going to become one of the signatories, taking over from Deborah Snowball and that this is in the process of being organised. It may be necessary to appoint another member of synod to join this group, but it would be sensible to wait until after the deanery elections to make a decision. Rupert explained that he has completed the accounts and that they are up to date but that like other deaneries, they are having some difficulties learning the new system.

John Parsons reported that the diocese board of finance are very grateful that the parish share payment was 100% completed. He also reported that all the stats required by the diocese have been submitted.

7. Deanery-wide events

a. The Just One event on July 8th at the Emirates Stadium was discussed. Since this meeting Emma Hulme has booked one 17-seater minibus. Places will be available on a first come first served basis. Duncan reminded the meeting that there is a weekly

information prayer note from Philo Trust and he encouraged all churches to sign up to receive it, if interested.

b. Quiz Night – 25th Feb – St Oswald’s 7pm

Charles Burch asked how many parishes will be bringing a team. It was concluded that nine teams will be entering the Quiz. Quiz questions are being contributed by the clergy.

c. Ascension Day service

It was confirmed that this will take place on 25th May at **St Oswald’s Church** at 8pm (and not at Christ Church as previously suggested). This service begins a week of prayer entitled ‘Thy Kingdom Come’.

8. The Safeguarding training

Safeguarding training was discussed on 4th February. It is hoped that a training session will be organised for all deanery churches. The proposed Spring date now cannot take place in March 2017. Instead a date in June is being explored. Sylvia Mann and Robert Riley-Braleay are organising this across the deanery, and a further update will be available soon. It was discussed that the number of people needing to receive training could be too large for one function. Christ church could host it in the Church, which would seat 250 people.

9. National Church Events

a. Forthcoming General Synod

Bill Seddon spoke about the forthcoming General Synod. He indicated that the programme is varied. Topics to be discussed are The Reformation (five hundred years on), a discussion on whether banns should be read by civil authorities, safeguarding, a debate on fixed betting terminals, a debate on the place of the laity in the church of England lead by Mark Russell, and same sex marriage. Bill Seddon said that the report on same sex marriage, (which is only 15 pages long) produced by the House of Bishops has attracted a certain amount of concern. Simon Cutmore encouraged deanery members to read it. Bob Shearer seconded this, saying that he did not appreciate the tone of the report.

Bill asked for prayer for the General Synod, particularly that worship may be an integral part of the meeting.

10. Pastoral matters

Nothing to report

11. AOB

a. Future Synod meetings – volunteer venues

Duncan said that venues are needed for the June and September meetings. Charles Burch said he would like to host in June. It was therefore concluded that the synod meeting on Wed 7th June will be at Bovingdon. The location of the meeting on Thursday 28th Sept still needs to be confirmed.

Future Meetings:-

Synod - Wednesday, 7th June 7.45pm for 8pm

DSPC - Thursday, 6th July 7.45pm for 8pm

Synod - Thursday, 28th September 7.45pm for 8pm

DSPC - Wednesday, 8th November 7.45pm for 8pm

John Parsons reminded the meeting that any newly elected PCC members must sign a mandatory form. He recommended that all PCC members sign the form, each year, as a useful reminder of the commitment they are undertaking. Training for new PCC members has been available from time to time. As APCM's approach John suggested that it would be advisable to remind all members of what is expected of them. John said he would be willing to answer any questions if anyone should have any.

Charles Burch pointed out that all three of his lay members were unable to be present at the meeting (Alan and Pauline Brown and Ivan Carter) due to health issues. He asked for prayer and healing for them.

12. Closing Prayer

The meeting was concluded in prayer and finished at 2125.