

## RICKMANSWORTH DEANERY: 'We are the body of Christ'

### SYNOD OFFICERS

<b>Rural Dean:</b>	Revd David Hall, The Vicarage, The Common, Chorleywood WD3 .	01923 284325
<b>Lay Joint 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>	Emma Hulme, 23 The Grove, Parkfield, Latimer, Bucks HP5 1UE	01494 764469

### DEANERY STANDING AND PASTORAL COMMITTEE (DSPC) MEMBERS (in addition to those named above)

Jane Brading	(Croxley Green St Oswald)	(vacancy)	(Rickmansworth)
Revd Charles Burch	(Bovingdon)	Judy Olney	(Chipperfield)
Revd Simon Cutmore	(Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde)	Revd Miriam Mugan	(Croxley Green All Saints)
Revd Michele du Saire	(Sarratt)	Les Palmer	(Chorleywood St Andrew)
Brian Donnelly	(Christ Church)	Bob Shearer	(Sarratt)

### DMAP Conveners:

DMAP Goal 1 (Ecumenical) Lead Person: Deborah Snowball  
DMAP Goal 2 (Dementia) Lead Person: David Hall  
DMAP Goal 3 (Social, Worship and Spiritual) Lead Person: Miriam Mugan  
DMAP Goal 4 (Worship and Social / Training esp safeguarding, healing and evangelism) Lead Person: Robert Riley-Braley

## Minutes of the Synod Meeting at St Lawrence Church, Bovingdon, 7.45pm, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Members of the House of Clergy

Present: (9) David Hall (Rural Dean), Tim Horlock, Deborah Snowball, Robert Riley-Braley, Simon Cutmore, Miriam Mugan, Jaira Nyaongo, Charles Burch, Charles Parry

Apologies: (3) Michele du Saire, David Jones, Simon Woodmore

### Members of the House of Laity

Present: (16) Duncan Kerr, Nigel Challis, Les Palmer, Bill Seddon, John Parsons, Rupert Barnes, Pauline Brown, Kully Dhadda, Anne Oke, Jackie Gedling, John Rhodes, Sue Hillier, Brian Donnelly, Gordon Cutting, Mark Sullivan, Alan Wills

Apologies: (9) Geoff Roberts, Andy Farr, Tony Barton, Jane Brading, Julie Shepherd, Fran Bennett, Judy Olney, Bob Shearer, Judith Palfreman

### 1/2 Welcome and Opening Worship

Charles Burch welcomed everyone to St Lawrence church before leading a short time of worship. David Hall then particularly welcomed all new Synod members, asking them to stand up and a round of applause was given to them.

### 3. Apologies

The names of those who could not attend the meeting were read out.

### 4. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

A correction was pointed out to 4b – it should have read 'It was reported that the Samara Appeal had been very successful providing relief and support to refugees in **Syria.**' And also '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 **Syria.**'

Otherwise they were signed accepted and signed as a true record.

### 5. Matters arising not listed below

None.

## 5a) **Our Response to Terrorism**

David Hall invited comments about the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London. It was agreed that we faced an ongoing threat. Charles Burch said our response must be to pray. Robert Riley-Braley observed that should an evacuation from London occur, some evacuees could come to Watford and our church halls could be needed for accommodation. It was agreed that although Rickmansworth deanery doesn't have a large Islamic community, we should consider doing more to build bridges with Muslim groups. It was concluded that one of the MAP groups could think about this. David Hall said that Michael Ross-Watson preached at Christ Church recently and he emphasised that we must act as peacemakers.

Deborah Snowball said that as we have other faiths in our communities we should seek to learn from other parishes who have a greater engagement with other faiths.

## 6. **Mission Action Plans**

### a) **Updates from DMAP groups**

David Hall (convenor of DMAP Goal 2 – dementia) reported that representatives from Christ Church are to meet with St Pauls' Chipperfield at the end of June, to share ideas on developing a dementia friendly harvest service there in the Autumn.

Deborah Snowball made the point that some members of the Synod are not in a DMAP group. David Hall said that Emma Hulme will circulate a list of current Synod members. He would allocate new Synod members among the DMAP groups in order to replenish them. (N.B. This been completed since the meeting). David Hall explained briefly the focus of each DMAP group. (The title of DMAP Goal 3 was amended to 'Social, Worship and Spiritual'.)

### b) **Updates re parish MAPs**

Simon Cutmore spoke about a parish listening exercise over Lent. (**Amended since meeting**): - They met 100 people, who were from within the churches mostly but they also spoke with those who were on the fringe of church. They used the MAP questions to decipher what those people felt was positive about the church and asked what areas could be improved. The response was that people felt isolated.

Deborah Snowball said they had undertaken a similar exercise, using a questionnaire, sent to parents of St Mary's School. It had been a helpful way of engaging more widely.

## 7. **Financial Matters**

### a) **Approval of Deanery accounts** (Rupert Barnes)

Rupert reminded the meeting that the Deanery accounts were issued at the last meeting in February and it has been quiet so far this year. Apart from the Quiz Evening in February which raised £112.60 there was nothing else to report.

John Parsons explained that he sits on the Board of Finance and he said he had a meeting the previous day in which the 2018 budget was discussed. John asked how the Deanery expense reimbursement scheme was working? Rupert said it was a good mechanism and David Hall agreed it worked well.

### b) **Action required regarding forthcoming parish share review**

Duncan Kerr introduced this by saying that we had been asked by the Archdeacon to conduct the triennial review of Parish Share Factors which would apply for the 3 years 2019 – 2021 and reply to him after appropriate deanery discussion. The diocesan intention is to continue with the existing method and, in particular, does not anticipate any changes in the total number of shares for each deanery.

The Parish Share has two components: a Stipend Contribution and a Ministry Support Contribution (MSC), and the review is concerned with the latter. The key element in the calculation of the Ministry Support Contribution is a parish's Share Factor which, when multiplied by a church's Membership Figure (CMF) gives the total number of MSC shares for that parish. [Share factors for deanery churches are listed in the monthly statement of parish share contributions available on the diocesan website. A short guide to the calculation of Parish Shares can be obtained from the Diocesan Mission Resourcing Dept - 01727 818141 or email: [mro@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:mro@stalbans.anglican.org)].

Previous deanery Share Factor reviews have concluded that the then existing range of parish share factors had

been about right. This might still be the case but Duncan asked whether this review might be an opportunity to take a broader look as a basic element relates to the characteristics of the area in which a parish is situated - eg the relative wealth/deprivation of the area; any significant changes to the size or constitution of the local population over time; the proportions of a fellowship drawn from within/outside parish boundaries; how resilient a parish might be to changes in membership numbers, future inflation/ future increases in parish share over the next 5 years, say. This gave rise to a range of comments and questions and it was agreed:-

- i) copies of the Archdeacon's letter (28th April) should be circulated to provide further background,
- ii) that, if practicable, the parish members of the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee, which meets next on Thursday, 6th July, could indicate then whether they were, or were not, content with the current share factors and if any needed more time, when they would be able to respond. This should enable the nature and timing of any further deanery consideration to be decided.
- iii) that a questionnaire should be circulated to assist parishes to reflect on the broader picture referred to above and how best to carry it forward at deanery level, if at all.

## **8. Deanery - wide events**

### **a) Outcome of Deanery quiz night (St Oswald's) and Ascension Day service (St Oswald's)**

All agreed that the Quiz at St Oswald's had been very successful. Charles Burch thanked the hosts at St Oswald's. The Ascension Day service was also very special and the organisers were thanked.

### **b) Just One (Sat 8 July 3.00 – 6.00pm at The Emirates Stadium)**

David Hall said that the organisers were appealing for help with enquirers. 16,000 tickets have been sold so far. Robert Riley-Braley asked if Christ Church were organising coaches and David Hall confirmed that CC are doing this. (N.B. Since the meeting, the 53 seater coach and the 17 seater minibus leaving from Christ Church are fully booked.)

### **c) Any other events of interest**

Brian Donnelly mentioned an event on June 22 called 'The Light Supper'.

(N.B. Since the meeting Emma Hulme has distributed posters to all deanery members, asking them to advertise the event in their churches. Brian explained that the organisers are hoping to raise up to £1000.)

## **9. Safeguarding Update**

Christ Church has not been able to organise a training session this June, as previously hoped. The course will take place in January 2018 instead. Charles Burch asked if it would be open for the whole deanery. David Hall explained that until the diocese can confirm the style of the course, he could not say.

Tim Horlock said that St Andrew's had had their safeguarding course and the numbers were capped at 40. This caused huge problems as it did not accommodate everyone.

John Parsons said that the Best Practice guidelines for Safeguarding (a 2 sheet summary) is very helpful: those wanting a copy should contact Jeremy Hirst, the new Diocesan Safeguarding advisor.

## **10. Diocesan and National Church Events**

### **a) 'Thy Kingdom Come' – updates invited from parishes**

Churches had arranged a variety of events in support of the week but as it clashed with half term, attendances had been lower than hoped for.

### **b) General and diocesan synod updates**

- (i) Bill Seddon for General Synod (previously circulated on March 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Bill Seddon updated on the General Synod. His report had been distributed by email on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The issue of same sex marriage had been discussed. Bill requested that members email him with feedback on their views as the Bishop has asked for the views of the electorate of synod. Amongst other new legislation, and in addition to same sex marriage, the issue of burying people who have committed suicide is to be considered and a private members motion called 'Conversion Therapy' is to be explored further. Deborah said that this is disregarded by some as it is a therapy which is offered to homosexual people which may convert them to becoming heterosexual.

Deborah Snowball referred to the Report about same sex marriage (produced by the House of Bishops before the previous General Synod.) She thought it indicated that the bishops believed that to be homosexual is to be sinful. She felt it was unfair that lay people could marry someone of the same sex, but if you were ordained, you could not. Deborah urged anyone who felt strongly about this to speak up, and contact Bill Seddon. She urged everyone to have a voice, defending Gay friends.

(ii) John Parsons for Diocesan (previously circulated on March 22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Nothing more to add from John Parsons – see 7b.

c) **Amendment to Diocesan Board of Ed'n Constitution:** proposal to invite nominations from deanery synods to fill 7 Board places to be put to Diocesan Synod on June 17<sup>th</sup>

Duncan Kerr said that on 17<sup>th</sup> June Diocesan Synod will consider a proposal to amend the constitution of Board of Education to enable deaneries to submit nominations to fill 7 board places. If approved the change would come into effect in 2018.

He also mentioned that the Diocese had submitted an Application for Strategic Development Funding to the Church Commissioners to help finance a 10 year programme aiming to reach people unconnected to church, the first stage of which will be a Fresh Expressions project to stimulate new forms of church and lay leadership within the Diocese. The total cost over 5 years is £3.6m: about £1.75m is being sought from the Church Commissioners with the balance of about £1.85m being met from diocesan funds.

### 11. Pastoral Matters

David Hall reported that Jacob Harrison (stipendiary) and Terence Russoff (self-supporting, 0.75 in parish) are to be licensed as curates to Christ Church Chorleywood on Sunday 2 July.

Jairo Nyaongo, curate, Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde, is to be licensed as Vicar of St. Augustine Church Limbury, in Luton on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm. DH reported that Jairo will be moving at the end of July. He was thanked for his contribution to deanery life, particularly recently when he preached at the Ascension Day service.

### 12. Any Other Business

a) **Next Synod meeting:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at Christ Church Chorleywood

b) Deborah Snowball reported that the Diocesan pilgrimage is imminent on June 24<sup>th</sup>. A minibus will be leaving from St Mary's if anyone would like to join them

### 13. Closing Prayer

David Hall ended the meeting at 9.40pm by reading out a prayer on terrorism (see below) followed by The Grace

“Help us tread gently in our night of sorrow,  
seeing the kindness in the eyes of strangers  
and the sadness in the eyes of our friends.  
May we fight division with unity  
falsehood with truth and hatred with love.  
Guide those who lead us and seek to protect us,  
that together, we might more faithfully reflect the compassionate courage,  
of the One who loved us and gave Himself for us;  
‘til morning comes, and shadows flee away. Amen”

Revd David Hall  
Rural Dean