

RICKMANSWORTH DEANERY: 'We are the body of Christ'

SYNOD OFFICERS

Rural Dean:	Revd David Hall, The Vicarage, The Common, Chorleywood WD3 .	01923 284325
Lay Joint 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:	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)
(vacancy)	(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 (Joint Spiritual) Lead Person: Miriam Mugan
DMAP Goal 4 (Worship and Social / Training esp safeguarding, healing and evangelism) Lead Person: Robert Riley-Braleay

Minutes of the Deanery Synod Meeting – Thursday September 28th 2017 Christ Church, Chorleywood at 7.45pm

Members of the House of Clergy (12 current members)

Present (4): David Hall (Rural Dean), Tim Horlock, Terence Russoff, Simon Cutmore

Apologies (6): Miriam Mugan, Chares Burch, Deborah Snowball, Robert Riley-Braleay, Jacob Harrison, Charles Parry

Members of the House of Laity (23 current members)

Present (16): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Julie Shepherd, Pauline Brown, Ivan Carter, Gordon Cutting, Mark Sullivan, Nigel Challis, Sue Hillier, John Rhodes, Jackie Gedling, Jane Brading, Rupert Barnes, Tony Barton, Brian Donnelly, Judith Palfreman, Bill Seddon

Apologies (6): Fran Bennett, Judy Olney, Alan Wills, Les Palmer, Anne Oke, Geoff Roberts

1 / 2. Welcome and Opening Worship

The meeting opened at 8pm with David Hall leading our time of worship. He read from Isaiah and he continued with a short time of prayer. Duncan Kerr then chaired the meeting.

3. Apologies

These were noted.

4. Minutes of the Deanery Synod on June 7th 2017

After the minutes were distributed in June, Simon Cutmore pointed out that Under Parish Maps (6B) - the listening exercise he did was with about **100** people (not 300). This corrected version was emailed out with the Agenda, and these minutes were accepted and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising not listed below

a) Safeguarding Update

It was reported that Diocesan Safeguarding training continues and how some members have already had sessions at their churches, notably St Andrew's. Judith Palfreman reported that she was asked to submit additional dates to the Diocese, by the end of August, requesting further training sessions and she is waiting to hear if these new dates will be possible. More trainers need to be found. Judith explained that they will only train 40 people at a time. In large churches, many more than 40 people need to be trained, as prayer ministry teams and pastoral teams as well as those involved in children's ministry all need to attend. It was reported that there are on line courses available, but Judith pointed out that all concerned need to do the on line course before the face-to-face course, and it is in addition, and not instead of. Duncan Kerr concluded that the Diocese are having to pause on their training as they are experiencing some difficulty in matching the format of training, with the large numbers involved.

6. Mission Action plans

DK stated that Mission Action plans have become a regular item on the Agenda as encouraged to do so, by the Diocese. It is helpful as it relates both to the deanery maps and individual maps.

a) Updates from DMAP groups

DK stated that DMAP Goal 1, whose focus is to develop ecumenical links across the deanery, are holding a DMAP evening at Chipperfield on 4th October, welcoming speakers from other denominations. (Since the meeting, this evening has been postponed – new date to be arranged.)

David Hall (convenor of DMAP Goal 2 – dementia) reported that the day time dementia friendly Harvest Festival service will be taking place on Tuesday 3rd October at Christ Church and anyone is welcome to attend. He reminded the meeting that DMAP group 2 have distributed their dementia guide out to everyone in the deanery. He offered further encouragement to anyone who had any questions, and asked them to make themselves known to him or anyone in the group.

Tony Barton from DMAP Goal 3 reported that their group met last week on Sept 20th and that they focused on the 'Retreat in Daily Life'. This will take place from June 10-17, 2018. Also it was confirmed that the Annual Deanery quiz will be on 3rd February 2018 at St Oswald's. A request was made for everyone to note the Quiz date in their diaries.

b) Updates re parish MAPs

DK explained that since the Bishop's visit in November 2016, which focused on the general development and outreach in the diocese, deanery synods have been encouraged to continue to review and update their parish MAPs across the board. For this reason, this item will remain on future agendas. He asked for any updates.

Sue Hillier reported that St Mary's will be reviewing their parish MAPs at future PCC meetings. St Oswald's also reported that their parish MAPs will be reviewed shortly at a forthcoming meeting. Simon Cutmore stated St Peter's Mill End are about to start the whole process of reviewing their parish MAPs.

7. Financial Matters

Rupert Barnes (Treasurer) had nothing to report. DK asked if claims are being submitted regularly to which Rupert replied, they are not. He requested that all future claims should be submitted as regularly as possible.

a) Parish Share Review

DK reported that an additional DSPC meeting took place on Saturday 16th September to discuss the parish share within the deanery. Both Brian Donnelly and David Hall commented that this meeting was constructive and that there was a real sense of the churches within the

deanery encouraging each other. It was reported to the meeting that parishes did not want their existing share factors to change. DK stated that one parish has been wrestling with significant challenges and they did ask if there could be a change in their share factor. Discussions have been taking place between this parish and the diocese. The meeting on September 16th had decided that parishes should consider offering short term support. In this context the parish agreed to circulate a brief note outlining plans designed to overcome the existing imbalance and strengthen the fellowship and its community outreach. Tim Horlock said that St Andrew's have their PCC meeting on Monday October 2nd and he hoped to receive it by then.

b) Further action required

David Hall said he would ensure that this note would be distributed when it is received from the parish.

8. Deanery - Wide Events

a) Just One – Emirates on Sat 8 July

A general discussion took place, and it was concluded that this event was very successful and hugely encouraging. Despite the very hot weather, the organisers coped admirably with the 23,000 people who attended. It was reported that 1,700 people filled in cards by way of response to J John's message. Tim Horlock praised the organisers of the event and said how encouraging it was to witness so many people, of all ages, responding to the Christian message. However he pointed out his surprise that *Just One* had not requested that he should make contact with those who filled in response cards, who live in his parish.

David Hall confirmed that there are plans for further *Just One* events at different stadiums and that planning is already under way.

b) DK reminded the meeting stated that DMAP Goal 1 group, whose focus is to develop ecumenical links across the deanery, are to hold an open evening at Chipperfield on 4th October, welcoming speakers from other denominations. (This evening has been subsequently postponed – new date to be arranged.)

9. Diocesan and National Church Events

a) Report on July meeting of General Synod

Bill Seddon reported to deanery members, a summary of the July General Synod. He had previously circulated his report. BS reported how the Bishop of Newcastle headed a discussion on the Church of England's current approach to sexuality. A Pastoral Advisory Group has been formed to support and advise churches on the Church of England's current views on Sexuality. He stated that a major teaching document on marriage and sexuality is to be produced by early 2020 involving 4 thematic working groups (social and biological sciences, biblical, theological and historical.) It was reported that Justin Welby is seeking a radical new Christian inclusion founded in scripture, reason and tradition. At the General Synod meeting, they were reminded that everyone is made in the image of God and that there should be a concern for faithfulness and a desire to take time to seek the mind of God. BS reported that they had two meetings with Bishop Alan to discuss what the general opinion was regarding the Bishops' Report and fortunately, all viewpoints were represented. BS confirmed that disagreement had not lead to the break down of relationships which was very positive. He stated that there was a general agreement that the current position of the C of E was not sustainable, but major change was unlikely and undesirable. BS reported that the major issue with the Bishops' report was one of tone rather than content. The debate concentrating on welcoming transgender people and conversion therapy was good tempered and respectful of different people's point of views. A discussion took place concentrating on whether additional liturgy was required even though existing liturgy is not gender specific and provides the flexibility for reaffirming baptismal vows or confirmation.

Finally BS reported how they spent time in workshops concentrating on national support for local churches. This was divided into 6 sections including 'Thy Kingdom Come' and Life

events (weddings, christenings and funerals). BS pointed out these three areas should be used as making good relationships with those who don't usually attend church. As they seek for the involvement of their local church, may these opportunities be nurtured and the foundations laid for future contact. BS said that the unchurched desire the gospel to be preached at these events. He encouraged deanery members to look at the Church of England website for helpful notes. Simon Cutmore agreed wholeheartedly with this point and encouraged all to look at the C of E website for more details.

BS reported on a report that has been created for 'Clergy Wellbeing'. In addition the appointment of a clergy wellbeing working Group to bring Covenant has been proposed to be ready by July 2018. School admissions codes were also discussed. There was another debate on the changing of the electoral and general synod. Proposals to authorise clergy not to have to wear vestments, and for the burial of those that have taken their own lives, now await the Royal Assent.

Judith Palfreman asked if the church has a view on how to influence teenagers or to offer therapy, in relation to transgender matters. Bill Seddon replied that the General synod did not discuss this.

Next General Synod Feb 2018

Post meeting note from Bill: Bill Seddon has offered to attend PCC meetings in the deanery if that would be helpful to discuss any areas in greater detail.

b) Amendment to Constitution of the Diocesan Board of Education

DK reported that this amendment was approved at the last diocesan synod and it will come into force next year. As a result of this amendment, there will be the opportunity for Synod to put forward applicants, for a number of the posts on the board. This is a positive improvement.

c) Church Commissioners' approval of Diocesan Application for strategic Development Funding:

DK confirmed that this approval has been received and much follow up work will be required to take place in the diocese, to establish the implementation. DK had no further details at this stage. Simon Cutmore confirmed that a meeting will be taking place on October 17th for initial discussions. He added that more meetings are planned for the new year when more information will be available. SC said that the strategic development programme aim to create 8000 new Christians through a range of F.E. of church. DK concluded that this is a long term development with a ten year view, but it looks promising.

10. Pastoral Matters

a) Jacob Harrison (stipendiary) and Terence Russoff (self-supporting, 0.75 in parish) licensed as curates to Christ Church Chorleywood on 2nd July.

DK reported that Terence and Jacob are settling in well at Christ Church and he warmly welcomed them to the deanery.

b) John Parsons, our member on the Diocesan Board of Finance, is retiring from his diocesan roles on leaving the diocese.

It was reported that following the death of his wife only a few months ago, John has moved out of the area. He has relinquished his role on the Diocesan Board of Finance. DK pointed out that as there are Synod elections due next Spring that may be the time to appoint a permanent replacement for John.

11. Any Other Business

DK stated that Emma Hulme is preparing a list of future dates for Synod and DSPC meetings for 2018. EH and Robert Riley-Braley will coordinate dates, attempting to avoid deanery chapter meetings taking place during the same week as Synod or DSPC meetings.

Parish dashboards were discussed. DK encouraged deanery members to look at these on line as they contain a wealth of statistical information about different aspects of parish life. He reported that they could be found by googling 'parish dashboards'.

a) Dates for future meetings:

DSPC: November 15th 2018

DMAP Saturday Morning: Saturday January 13th 2018 at Christ Church, Chorleywood

Deanery Quiz: February 3rd 2018 at St Oswald's Church

Deanery Synod: February 6th 2018

12. Closing Prayer

David Hall closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Revd David Hall

Rural Dean