

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, St Lawrence)	Judy Olney	(Chipperfield, St Paul's)
(vacancy)	(Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde)	Revd Miriam Mugan	(Croxley Green, All Saints)
Revd Michele du Saire	(Sarratt, Holy Cross, Chipperfield, St Paul's)	Les Palmer	(Chorleywood, St Andrew)
Brian Donnelly	(Chorleywood, Christ Church)	Bob Shearer	(Sarratt, Holy Cross)

DMAP Conveners:

DMAP Goal 1 (Ecumenical) Lead Person:	Deborah Snowball
DMAP Goal 2 (Dementia + Fresh Expressions) Lead Person:	David Hall
DMAP Goal 3 (Joint Spiritual + Worship) Lead Person:	Miriam Mugan
DMAP Goal 4 (Worship and Social / Training esp. safeguarding, healing and evangelism + children's work) Lead Person:	Robert Riley-Braleay

Deanery Synod Meeting Minutes – Wednesday 6th June 2018

At St Oswald's Church, Croxley Green at 7.45pm

Members of the House of Clergy

Present (5) Michele du Saire, David Hall, Robert Riley-Braleay, Tim Horlock, David Jones

Apologies (6) Terence Russoff, Jacob Harrison, Charles Burch, Simon Cutmore, Deborah Snowball, Miriam Mugan

Visitor (1) Tim Lomax

Members of the House of Laity

Present (19) Duncan Kerr, Mark Sullivan, Nigel Challis, John Payne, Jeannie Poulton, Judith Olney, Bob Shearer, Anne Oke, Alan Wills, Sue Hillier, Pauline Brown, Tony Barton, Gordon Cutting, Rupert Barnes, Bill Seddon, Jackie Gedling, John Rhodes, Les Palmer, Emma Hulme

Visitor (1) Allen Brown

Apologies (7) Jane Brading, Andy Farr, Judith Palfreman, Julie Shepherd, John Marsh, Brian Donnelly, Fran Bennett

1. WELCOME

David Hall opened the meeting at 8pm and thanked Robert Riley-Braleay for hosting the meeting at St Oswald's.

2. OPENING WORSHIP

This time of worship was lead by Robert Riley-Braleay.

3. APOLOGIES

The list of names of those who could not attend the meeting was read out. David Hall announced that sadly Ivan Carter has had to resign from the Deanery due to poor health. David mentioned what a valuable contribution Ivan had made to the Deanery over the years.

4. PRESENTATION BY TIM LOMAX ON FRESH EXPRESSIONS

DH welcomed Tim Lomax to the meeting, Director of Mission for the Diocese. Tim explained how he looks at spiritual and numerical growth in the church. He is part of a team who is looking at a new project, reaching new people.

Tim gave all members a few minutes to discuss in pairs, what their prayer for the deanery is? Tim was interested to hear the answers - unity and diversity, celebrating the differences that are within our own churches and parishes; less parochial and more able to look beyond our own boundaries; more opportunities to worship together as a deanery; reaching out to the people living in the new houses being built, or the families attending the new school; working well together. Tim said these were all encouraging ideas. Deanery does help bring together parishes and different churches and to celebrate diversity is very positive.

Tim gave some background to the project which has only been running for 4 months. St Albans Diocese have their diocesan vision – ‘Living God’s Love’. There are three main strands – going deeper into God, transforming communities and making new disciples. Tim acknowledged that it is depressing that numbers attending church are going down and that the solution is to make new disciples. He said St Albans is not alone – it is a global issue and not just in this part of the world.

The Diocese’s aim is to firstly renew existing modes of church and secondly reach new people in new ways – and this is known as Fresh Expressions. Tim showed a short film explaining the aims of FX.

The Project team is almost complete and Tim showed a slide indicating the team. (Dave Jones is on the team.) This project is about helping churches to reach new people. It starts with listening to local opportunities and spotting chances to engage with people – leading to evangelism in appropriate ways. The FX team, give people the tools to live out the faith.

The FX team are very keen to know what everyone thinks about the project. The Bishop is very supportive of it and has already sent out a questionnaire – Tim asked everyone to check if their Church had responded and if not, he urged everyone to do so. From the questionnaires it has been noted that generally the Diocese is not as good at evangelism and discipleship. There are videos on the subject to watch on the website.

Some encouraging facts on Fresh expressions:

1. More than 60 percent that are engaging with FX are in this country are not connected with churches at the moment.
2. As many Fresh Expressions are led by men and women.
3. The majority are led by lay leaders – we need more lay leaders so this is encouraging.

FX offer areas to support churches. They run training courses, provide packs with helpful guidelines and other areas of support. They have already visited 15 out of 20 deaneries across the Diocese.

Tim explained that the next Vision day will take place on October 20th in Harpenden – this is completely free and everyone is invited. He encouraged everyone to book a place through Eventbrite.

DH asked about the details of FX consultancy and how that would happen. Tim explained that after some consultation, a member of the FX team would engage and support a Church (perhaps a PCC or a Leadership Team) as they embark on some Fresh Expressions. It would be tailor-made time to help in a specific way. The team would support the Church through training and provide skills and support on how to bring about the proposed initiative. Tim asked anyone with questions to email him. rnp@st.stalbans.anglican.org. DH explained that members from Christ Church have started ‘knocking on doors’ in the parish to try to engage with those who don’t attend church. DH encouraged everyone to

contact Tim and ask any questions in confidence. Before Tim left, DH thanked him very much for attending and prayed for him.

5. MINUTES OF THE DEANERY SYNOD ON February 6th 2018

Alan Wills pointed out that under 9b) it should have read 'Diocesan *Objectives*' and not '*objections*'. Otherwise the minutes were accepted as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING NOT LISTED BELOW

a) Safeguarding Update:

Duncan Kerr updated the meeting on Safeguarding. Since the last Synod meeting in February there have been 3 Safeguarding courses in our deanery. The course at Christ Church was well received. DK reminded the meeting that trustee members of the PCC need to have completed the two on-line modules. They may have done more, but that is the minimum requirement. Anne Oke mentioned that she had received a letter from the Bishop, explaining that if PCC members work with children and vulnerable adults, as well as doing the Safeguarding course, they must also have a DBS check.

Michele du Saire pointed out that there will be a Safeguarding Training day at St Paul's Chipperfield on June 9th and July 17th. The course due to take place in Watford on June 19th has been cancelled due to too few bookings. It was discussed whether it would be an option to put Safeguarding courses on the deanery Central list of dates that is regularly circulated to deanery members. It has been concluded since the meeting that as the list quickly becomes out-of-date all churches should regularly check the St Albans Diocese Safeguarding website themselves, for updates on availability and courses.

b) Updates re parish MAPS

Nothing to report.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Treasurer's report

Rupert Barnes handed out the 2017 accounts and asked if anyone had any questions. DK asked whether it made sense for our deanery to add to the balance that we are holding, rather than tell the Diocese that we don't need any funds this year. Rupert explained that the system has changed (see below), that the deanery does raise funds (for example at the Deanery Quiz) and it is intended that the deanery spends the money it raises. He pointed out that the deanery could spend its income on Mission. DH suggested discussing this at the next Deanery MAP.

Nigel Challis asked about receipts – Rupert said that we no longer get an annual grant from the Diocese. Instead allowable deanery expenses are reimbursed by the Diocese.

Rupert asked for the 2017 accounts to be formally adopted. Alan Wills proposed it, DK seconded it. All in favour.

b) Parish Share Review

DK reported on the meeting with David Nye (Chairman of Diocesan Board of Finance) and Susan Pope (Diocesan Secretary) which was held on March 19th 2018. There was representation from all the parishes in the deanery. The discussions covered a wide range of questions on parish share. Since the meeting, the Minutes were circulated to all deanery members. DK reminded the meeting that David Nye did emphasise that churches could contact him to discuss their church individually. There were no further questions.

8. DEANERY-WIDE EVENTS

a) Outcome of Elections to Diocesan Synod

DK explained that the elections have taken place. The outcome was that Nigel Challis, John Rhodes and Duncan Kerr were elected Lay Members and Tim Horlock and Simon Cutmore were elected as Clergy Members. Our deanery does not have a total representation and that is not unusual. It would be possible to have four members to represent the Deanery in

the House of Clergy, and five members to represent the Deanery in the House of Laity. Robert Riley-Braley asked if those places could still be filled at a later stage, and DK confirmed that they could be filled subsequently.

b) Report on Ascension Day Service – May 10th 2018, Christ Church

Tim Horlock thanked Christ Church for hosting the service this year. It has not been decided who will be hosting the service in 2019 – to be decided at a Deanery Chapter meeting soon.

9. DIOCESAN AND NATIONAL CHURCH EVENTS

Bill Seddon thanked Tim Lomax for his most interesting presentation on Fresh Expressions. The July 2018 General Synod is approaching and a Group of Sessions will be taking place in a few weeks' time. Although Bill has received the agenda he has not received the papers yet. As a result Bill was unable to go into much detail at the meeting. From the agenda he could see that there will be a debate on Safeguarding. Ethics of nuclear weapons will also be discussed. There will be a debate on the long term sustainability of the NHS – this item has been introduced by the Carlisle Diocese. The main discussion will focus on climate change. Bill concluded that this topic should concentrate the minds of all members of all congregations, concerning their responsibility related to climate. Bill asked anyone if they had any questions and encouraged anyone interested to speak to him afterwards.

John Rhodes said how much he always enjoyed reading Bill's Synod reports and he thanked him for his personal reflections. In appreciation, the other members gave Bill a round of applause

10. PASTORAL MATTERS

Nothing to report.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) For dates for future meetings – See Central list of dates. The next Deanery Synod meeting will take place on **September 27th 2018** at a venue to be confirmed.

DH reminded everyone that the Bovingdon Music Festival will be taking place at St Lawrence Church on July 5-8.

Robert Riley-Braley pointed out that Tony Barton has taken on the role of Deanery Reader Advisor. Everyone welcomed him with a round of applause.

Tim Horlock said that Joe Sellers, their new Curate, will be joining St Andrew's after he has been ordained on July 1st.

Alan Wills said that Sam Frampton, their new Curate, will be joining Mill End after his ordination on July 1st.

12. CLOSING PRAYER

DH closed the meeting in prayer at 2115.

Revd David Hall
Rural Dean