

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2018 at the Fitzwilliam Centre, Beaconsfield.

Present: House of Clergy:

Mike Bisset, Ruth Boughton, Jeremy Brooks, John Goodman, Tim Harper (Area Dean), Paul Henderson, Sylvester Liyanage, Cassa Messervy, Debbie Oades, Jenny Tebboth, Ben Topham, Martin Williams (Area Dean).

House of Laity:

Mary Bentall, Peter Bright, Margaret Carey, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Zoe Clark, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Chris Embleton-Smith, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Frances Hall, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, David Kidner, Gilbert Knight, Roger Leslie, Keith Lucas, Jean Meakin, Ruth Moores, David Rafferty, James Scorer, Peter Simmonds, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Eddie Weiss, Keith Wright.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Ian Brown, Chris Clare, Sharon Roberts, Di Rowlandson, Peter Simmons, Camilla Walton.

House of Laity:

Louise Baneke, Jan Bartlett, Monica Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Linda Bryan, Chris Emery, Stephen Fitzjohn, Margaret Gingell, Ian Hamilton, Jo Herrera, Janna Holder, Martin Josten, Sheila King, Judy Knight, Mary Lee, David Mackie, Tim Podesta, Susan Pounce, Hilary Povey, Ann Ralph, Deborah Sanders, Maren Saville, Trevor Sharkey, Susan Shyvers, Cobus van der Walt, Peta Woollett, Linda West.

Visitors: Sarah Banks, Frederique Henderson, Annie Pearse.

Speaker: Jennie Dziegiel

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Minutes of the meeting held at The Fitzwilliam Centre, Beaconsfield on 28th February 2018.

Rev'd Martin Williams (Area Dean) was in the Chair.

- 1) At 8.05pm Rev'd Jeremy Brooks, Rector of Beaconsfield welcomed members and led the Synod in worship and prayers, with the theme sheep and shepherds.

- 2) Apologies – these will be taken from the attendance sheet.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held 21st November 2017 were agreed.
- 4) Matters Arising: The newly formed Mission and Pastoral Committee have met.
- 5) Messy Church. The speaker Jennie Dziegiel was welcomed to the meeting. Jennie has done extensive research in Messy Church as part of her Masters' Degree at Lancaster University, and has hands on experience with St Thomas' Church, Lancaster. Jennie gave a talk on Messy Church – where it started, what it looks like, the values, impact, strengths and weaknesses. This can be found on the Amersham Deanery website. Following this, a question and answer session took place: Any denomination can take up Messy Church, adopt or adapt it .. in principle it works! Amersham on the Hill have introduced Messy Church on a Saturday which has proved very successful. Rev'd Debbie Oades added that it should work where people find acceptance, value and feel loved – have pastoral interaction. Rev'd John Goodman asked how regularly Messy Church should take place – any less than once a month the feeling of community would be lost . Eddie Weiss asked whether any new churches have opened as a result of Messy Church or whether this occurs within existing churches – parish churches would add it , but no church plant or start up. There has been collaboration between churches and within schools to set up Messy Church. Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) asked whether there was any research or local experience regarding stewardship/giving in Messy Church congregations. By 2012 only a handful of churches were resourcing and Messy Church had ceased to be a burden. Mr Chris Embleton-Smith asked whether the next stage of Messy church had been thought through and are people in place to carry it forward. Rev'd Ben Topham said it was an area where people can be engaged and made whole life disciples. Jennie was thanked, especially as she had come so far and in such dreadful weather conditions.
- 6) Diocesan Synod Elections These will take place in early summer, although no information has been received from the Diocese yet. In the past there have been 4 clergy members and 6 laity members.
- 7) Finance: Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) advised that all members of Amersham Deanery Trust (Synod members) had received their papers, either by way of the website or the few that had them posted.

Vote: To accept Amersham Deanery Trust Accounts

Proposed: Mrs Julie Dziegiel

Seconded: Mr Michael Carmody

No votes against or abstentions

Carried by a show of hands.

Amersham Deanery Budget:

Mrs Dziegiel made the following comments:

There is no longer any payment made to parishes with regard to the time of the Area Deans as we now have two and payment would not be appropriate.

£4400 in the Discretionary Fund is for the Area Dean's to use – primarily for clergy wellbeing.

There is £40k held to help parishes which experience difficulty paying Parish Share (£5k is already committed) or otherwise to be refunded to parishes.

The contribution to Mission was a one off payment – it was agreed that this is an item that should be dealt with at parish level.

Vote: To Accept Amersham Deanery Budget 2018

Proposed: Mrs Julie Dziegiel

Seconded: Mr Eddie Weiss

No votes against or abstentions

Agreed by a show of hands.

Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) was thanked for her hard work.

- 8) AOB: Rev'd Martin Williams (Area Dean) spoke about Christian Discipleship, a course running at Gerrards Cross. Initially this course was aimed at Lay Readers, but is open to all. The next Confirmation Service will take place on 15th July at St. Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill. Thank you to all who turned out in the snow!

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9.18pm