

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2017 at Holy Trinity Hall, Penn.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Mike Bisset, Jeremy Brooks, Derrick Carr, Sue Gill, Tim Harper (Assistant Area Dean), Debbie Oades, Sharon Roberts, Peter Simmons, Graham Summers, Ben Topham, Camilla Walton, Martin Williams.

House of Laity:

Louise Baneke, Jan Bartlett, Monica Bartlett, Mary Benthall, Linda Bryan, Michael Carmody, Zoe Clark, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Chris Embleton-Smith, Chris Emery, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Margaret Gingell, Jo Herrera, Gilbert Knight, Judy Knight, Keith Lucas, Jean Meakin, Rodney Newth, Dorothy Potter (Sec), Hilary Povey, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty, Don Sanderson (Lay Chair), James Scorer, Peter Simmonds, Roy Stroomer, Stephanie Summerell, Anne Thomas, Eddie Weiss, Keith Wright.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Ruth Boughton, Dorothy Brooks, Ian Brown, Simon Cansdale, Chris Clare, Lawrie Clow, Cassa Messervy, John Shepherd, John Went.

House of Laity:

Andrew Bell, Peter Bright, , Margaret Carey, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, David Heeley, Martin Josten, Mary Lee, Jean Meakin, Ann Middleton, Ruth Moores, Susan Shyvers, Linda West, Peta Woollett.

Visitors: Cobus Van Der Walt, Philip Lovegrove, Nigel Edward-Few, Susan Pounce, George Thackray

Minutes of the meeting held at Holy Trinity Hall, Penn on 24th May 2017.

At 8pm Rev'd Mike Bisset opened the meeting with a bible reading and prayers.

Mr Don Sanderson (Lay Chair) welcomed new Synod members and said goodbye to those whose this would be their last meeting.

- 1) Apologies – these will be taken from the attendance sheet.

- 2) Minutes of the meeting held 23rd February 2017 were agreed and accepted by a show of hands.
- 3) Matters Arising – The speaker at February’s meeting, Steve Poulson, spoke about his work with CMS in Honduras. Following the meeting there was a proposal to endorse Steve as a CMS Mission Partner for the Deanery Synod. This was discussed at Standing Committee and Mission and Pastoral Committee and was brought back to the Synod for agreement. Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) spoke and said that 10% of income is used as a guideline for charitable giving. The Synod’s income comes from parish share rebate which is in the region of £40-45k, which goes back to the parishes after administrative costs are paid.

Mrs Louise Baneke spoke, giving an overview of Steve’s work in Honduras. Rev’d Tim Harper also added that Steve is a CMS Mission Partner, rather than working on an individual basis. Mr Michael Carmody suggested that £3.5k was given in support of Steve’s need to purchase a vehicle.

A number of comments were made: What is the commitment? Rev’d Jeremy Brooks asked if this was a one off or continuing support, and can this be reviewed? Mrs Dziegiel proposed to give 5% this year to Steve, and in future to split the grant with other(s).

Rev’d Martin Williams felt that the Synod needed to establish the principle and establish policy guidelines in writing.

This is to return to Standing Committee and return to the next Synod meeting.

- 4) The Future Shape and Task of Amersham Deanery: Rev’d Tim Harper spoke that Bishop Steven was surprised at how large the Deanery is and has suggested that the Area Dean’s role is split as the role is too big for one person. When Rev’d Camilla Walton’s term finishes later in the summer, there will be two Area Deans, with their own responsibilities.

Rev’d Tim Harper said Camilla Walton had been Area Dean for five years, but was now stepping down. It was lovely to see her back after her illness, and that she had always shown kindness and was very hardworking. A presentation to her was made on behalf of the Synod.

Rev’d Camilla Walton responded with a ‘thank you’ to all – she has loved visiting the parishes, making appointments, seeing developments and discussions. She felt that the changes being made, need to be done. She thanked the Synod for its support, and enjoyed working with Standing Committee and Mission and Pastoral Committee; special thanks to Julie Dziegiel, Don Sanderson, Dorothy Potter and Tim Harper for holding the fort.

Rev’d Tim Harper advised the Synod that Mr Don Sanderson was stepping down after many years as Lay Chair. Don was thanked for his excellent service and a presentation to him was made on behalf of the Synod.

- 5) Appointment of Treasurer: Mrs Julie Dziegiel is happy to serve for another three years

Proposed: Michael Carmody
Seconded: Hilary Povey
Agreed by Synod by a show of hands

Appointment of Secretary: Mrs Dorothy Potter is happy to serve for another three years

Proposed: Louise Baneke
Seconded: Christopher Cook
Agreed by Synod by a show of hands

- 6) Election of members to Mission and Pastoral Committee: There are 4 clergy vacancies and 4 lay vacancies:

Clergy – Tim Harper, Martin Williams, Mike Bisset, Debbie Oades

Lay – David Carter, Michael Carmody, Peter Flory, Nigel Edward-Few all expressed an interest. It is hoped over the summer more names will emerge.

- 7) Finance: Mrs Dziegiel has now written all the cheques to finalise the grant payments. One parish is struggling to pay its parish share.
- 8) Update on MAP: Rev'd Tim Barnard said all MAPs had been received. He had forwarded the first draft to Rev'd Tim Harper in February. He hopes to bring the Deanery MAP to the next Synod.
- 9) AOB: Rev'd Ben Topham said that leaflets were available to all parishes regarding an evening with Bishop Graham Tomlin on Thursday 15th June regarding Martin Luther and why he matters today. He encouraged members to come along to what will be a very interesting talk.

Rev'd Mike Bisset closed the meeting with prayers at 8.38pm