

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held on 20th November 2025 in St James Centre, Gerrards Cross, commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Peter Ackroyd, Dan Beesley, Jez Carr, Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson (AAD), Jonny Rapson (AD), Christoph Lidner (AAD), Brian Ludlow, Victoria Jones, Peggy Ludlow, Sharon Roberts, Margot Suter, Jenny Tebboth.

House of Laity:

Anthony Bargioni, Jean Batchelor, Andrew Bell, Michael Carmondy, David Carter, Hazel Chow, Ann Cummings, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Roger Edwards, Hilary Forbes, Francesca Hall - Drinkwater, Jacqui Hardman, Jackie Lambert, Mary Lee, Sandy Leighton-Jones, Marion Miles, Peter Miles, Ian Mitton, John Nash, Mark Nicholas, Brian O'Regan, Dorothy Potter, Jacqueline Rose, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Wynne Thorndike, Kristel Van Wauwe, Joan Wainman, Eddie Weiss, Carol Wiggins.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Michelle Fotherby, Sue Gill, Jim King, Daf Merion-Jones, Edward Millais, Graham Summers, Samuel Thorp.

Apologies House of Laity:

Chris Embleton-Smith, Margaret Gingell, Hazel Miller, Hilary Povey, Phil Prestridge, Stephanie Shinner.

Visitors: Rev'd Tim Barnard.

Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) was Chair for the meeting.

- 1) The meeting began at 8 pm with the Chair welcoming the Synod. We are grateful for the use of the building, and for the refreshments provided. Rev'd Peter Ackroyd opened the meeting with prayer for the Synod, Diocese and Bishop Steven, who has recently announced his retirement and Bible readings from Hebrews 13.8. Ian Mitton led the Synod in singing.
- 2) Apologies – these will be taken from the signing in sheet, in addition to those given to the Secretary ahead of the meeting.
- 3) Minutes of the Last Meeting – 11th September 2025:
These were approved

4) Matters Arising. None

5) Area Dean's Notes. The Archbishop of Canterbury has now been announced Rt Rev'd Dame Sarah Mullally. Bishop Steven has announced his retirement next year and will be leaving in May 2026. Bishop Dave, Bishop of Buckingham is now in post. The Archdeacon to replace Rev'd Guy Ellesmore has yet to be appointed after Rev'd Gavin Hunt decided not to proceed with this post.

Rev'd Jonny Rapson has been appointed Area Dean, with Rev'd Christoph Lidner and Rev'd Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson appointed Associate Area Deans.

6) Any Other Business: Diocesan Synod notes will be placed on the website,

7) Parish Share: Canon Julie Dziegiel, Synod Treasurer, went through the Parish Share allocations for 2026 explaining how the figures were arrived at, and the slides will be put on the Amersham Deanery website. A vote was taken

Deanery happy to accept the Parish Share proposals:

Disagreed: 4 Abstained: 7

Carried by a show of hands

Parish Giving Scheme: The Parish Giving Scheme did a survey looking at attitudes and behaviours and understanding the impact on gifts.

1. Thank you – 75% thanked for giving
2. Preaching – 2/3rd had heard a sermon regarding giving
3. 40% use digital giving
4. Generosity – average gift of £18.30 does exceed inflation
5. 70% would give more if they knew where the money was going and the impact of gifts.

90% of the money given is by 10% of people

A question was raised whether the Parish Giving Scheme thanks people – it was determined that probably does, in the sentence before advising what the increased donations would be for the following year.

A question was raised about the increase in Clergy Stipend – this is set by the National Church – incumbents to receive a pay increase of 6.5%. The 2026 Parish Share is to be kept to the rate of inflation.

A formal thank you to Canon Julie Dziegiel for all her hard work.

A presentation by Rev'd Jez Carr about Trinity Café set up at Seer Green Church

The heating at Holy Trinity, Seer Green needed replacing and in order to raise money they contemplated what could be done: It was felt that a café would meet local needs, spiritual needs and provide a gathering space. Contact was made with the Clare Foundation who made a £10k donation and covered the costs of setting up. Local volunteers held transform the church.

The Café now covers all costs and makes a profit. The impact is that this a space where teenagers can meet on a Thursday, a folk club meets, community sewing club. It is a space for harvest and Christingle.

What next? More of the same: soul space services, evening café

The café is open Mon, Thurs, Friday 8.30am – 11.30pm and 2-4.30pm and Saturday all day.

Do pop along!

A presentation by Michael Cooper from Samaritans Purse International

Who are we: An organisation set up by Dr Bob Pierce to alleviate suffering. Samaritans Purse International is one of the agencies who attend disasters to bring relief by:

- Animals and Agriculture
- International Disaster Relief
- Medical Ministries
- Women at Risk
- Clean Water
- Operation Christmas Child

Many churches locally are involved with Operation Christmas Child, and 12 million shoeboxes filled with gifts for children (age related) were donated in 2024.

Michael spoke about Pastor Eugene story – when war was declared in Ukraine, he didn't leave and is a beacon of hope in time of darkness.

The slides for Michael's presentation are on the Deanery Website.

Rev'd Jonny Rapson gave a thank you and farewell to Revd's Peggy and Brian Ludlow, and wish them well on what they do next.

Rev'd Peggy Ludlow closed with the Grace at 9.50pm.

