

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in St Michael & All Angels Church, Amersham on the Hill on 29th March 2022 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Dan Beesley, Edward Bowes-Smith, Benjamin Clarke, John Goodman, Brian Ludlow, Peggy Ludlow (AD), Jeremy Moodey, Ross Mungavin, Debbie Oades, Margot Suter, David Whale.

House of Laity:

Sarah Ainsworth-Coles, Mary Bentall, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Graeme Coles, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Chris Embleton-Smith, Roy Evans, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Cathy Franklin, Ann Geary, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Carol Hornsby, Judy Knight, Jackie Lambert, Grant Masom, Hazel Miller, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Joan Wainman, Mary Webster, Eddie Weiss.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Ruth Atkinson, Matt Beeby, Mike Bisset, James Forward, Christoph Lindner, Daf Meirion-Jones, Sharon Roberts, Jill Roth, Graham Summers

House of Laity:

Andrew Bell, Margaret Carey, Hazel Chow, Zoe Clark, Cathy Franklin, Margaret Gingell, Mary Lee, Ian Mitton, Brian O'Regan, Hilary Povey, Jonathan Rushworth, Hannah Tew, Cobus Van Der Walt, Linda West.

Secretary In Attendance: Dorothy Potter

Rev'd Peggy Ludlow (Area Dean) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with the Chairman welcoming the Synod, and thanked St Michael and All Angels for the use of the building and their hospitality. Rev'd Debbie Oades welcomed the Synod to St Michael's, two hymns followed 'For the Healing of the Nations' and 'Room for All'. The speakers for this evening Charlotte Lawson and Doral Hayes were welcomed to the meeting.
- 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:
The minutes were approved.
- 4) Matters Arising.
There were no matters arising.
- 5) Area Dean's Notes. These had been circulated in advance. Bishop's Steven's visit to Amersham Deanery on 5th May - all welcome to the evening or Worship at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Chesham. There were still places available to the Deanery Pilgrimage to Oberammergau in June.
- 6) Wycombe Deanery Discipleship Training Centre – Charlotte Lawson explained what this was. It is designed for 18-24 year olds, and can be used as a gap year programme. There are currently 10 placements that last a year, which include Wycombe, Aylesbury and Marlow, principally based on children and youth work but could be used for mission or other items. All trainees do one day a week teaching – this is linked to New Wine Discipleship – investing in our young leaders. The aim is to have fun and enjoyment during the year.

Question: Can someone from Amersham Deanery take part? – Anyone can join and there are no qualifications needed.

Synod adjourns

Amersham Deanery Trust AGM convenes.

Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) gave the background that ADT is a charitable vehicle for Amersham Deanery. It is a company limited by guarantee – the liability for each member of the Synod is £1. The trustees are Julie Dziegiel, Peggy Ludlow (Area Dean) and Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair). The Accounts were presented.

Appointment of Independent Examiner – Michael Hardman

Proposed by Mrs Julie Dziegiel

Agreed by a show of hands

Presentation of Annual Accounts and Approval of the Budget for 2022

Agreed by a show of hands.

Amersham Deanery Trust closed

Amersham Deanery Synod re-opens

- 7) Any other Business – none.
- 8) Doral Hayes, Oxford Diocese Advocate for the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) initiative.

Doral gave a 30 minute presentation about considering identity, sexuality, relationship and marriage and how the Church of England is trying to work its way through some complex situations. The timing of the consultative period was ending in April 2022, and responses will be collated and forwarded for review later in the year.

The synod broke into groups to discuss the presentation, and there was a time for Questions and Answers.

Some of the feedback to the measures put forward are:

There were a mixed set of views expressed. There was a widespread recognition that the issues raised are difficult. One view was that the Proposals did not feel balanced, others that the measures are not clear and there did not seem to be any leadership. Another view that the thinking has come 15 years too late; while others were concerned about one more thing to think about during a vacancy when recovering from the Covid pandemic. A big congregation may get something out of it, not so much smaller churches.

The Chairman thanked Doral for her presentation.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.50pm.