

## **AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD**

Minutes of the zoom meeting held on 23rd June 2020.

### **Present: House of Clergy:**

Tim Barnard, Mike Bissett, Ruth Boughton, Jeremy Brooks, Ian Brown, Ben Clarke, Sue Gill, Tim Harper (coAD), Jim King, Nnamdi Maduka, Cassa Messervy (AAD), Sharon Roberts, Jill Roth, Margot Suter, David Whale, Martin Williams (coAD).

### **House of Laity:**

Jan Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Liz Bell, Mary Bentall, David Carter, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Roger Edwards, Stephen Fitzjohn, Peter Flory, Margaret Gingell, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Martin Josten, Dave Kidner, Mary Lee, Roger Leslie, Hilary Povey, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty, Jacqueline Rose, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Cobus Van der Walt, Eddie Weiss.

### **Apologies: House of Clergy:**

James Leach, Christoph Lindner, John Shepherd, Jenny Tebboth, Simon Winn.

### **House of Laity:**

Janet Allen, Monica Bartlett, Zoe Clark, Steve Cooper, Chris Embleton-Smith, Frances Hall, Carol Hornsby, Dave Mackie, Maren Saville, Susan Shyvers, Roy Stroomer, Joan Wainman, Keith Wright.

**Secretary:** Dorothy Potter

**Visitors:** Janna Holder, Helen Savage, David Lillycrop

**Unknown:** Jane, Joe F, Helen, Janine, Christine's iPad

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Rev'd Martin Williams (co Area Dean) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with Rev'd Martin Williams welcoming the Synod, followed by prayers, led by Rev'd Canon Tim Harper.
- 2) Area Deans Notes: Further to the notes already circulated on Deanery Website, the Synod was advised that Rev'd Matt Beeby's mother had died a few days previously and our thoughts and prayers are with him at this sad and difficult time. It has been announced by the Government today that small weddings of up to 30 people may will be allowed from 4th July. From 4th July church services will be able to resume, with social distancing – there is to be no singing of hymns. There may be some difficulty with re-opening churches.  
Mrs Stephanie Summerell advised that two papers had been uploaded to the website covering the Diocesan Synod meetings held in March and June.
- 3) Finance: Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) asked those present to confirm that they had read the Amersham Deanery Trust financial report held over from the cancelled synod meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> March and posted on the Website. In the absence of a strong, indication, this item will be held over to the next Synod meeting. (Post meeting note received from Rev'd Tim Barnard on proper procedure required to approve.)

Mrs Dziegiel has been in touch with all the Treasurers in the Deanery. She has asked if the parishes will be able to meet this year and next year's parish share, and whether they will be able to consider assisting parishes who cannot – with some positive results. The Deanery will be able to support parishes not expected to meet their parish share. Mrs Dziegiel strongly suggested that parishes look into online giving, and to post this on their website. Some Synod members expressed that their usual fundraising activities were no longer feasible this year. Mr Stephen Fitzjohn posed the question 'will the parish share be calculated on attendance?' Mrs Dziegiel advised that the attendance figures used in 2020 were based on the attendance in 2018, so the parish share for 2021 will be based on last year's figures.

The Synod thanked Mrs Dziegiel.

- 4) Rev'd Martin Williams – Church Next – Emerging from lockdown. What is church going to look like in the coming months and years.

*The presentation Powerpoint and supporting papers are posted on the Deanery website.*

People have been happily going to church on Sunday's and some weekdays, but with the lockdown the church congregation has been scattered.

Many parishes have been able to provide online Sunday services and some have found that they had grown their congregations, by as much as 50%, as people had joined digitally, who would not normally attend a Sunday service.

When we emerge from lockdown, how do we keep connected with these people? Will the older members of the church be happy to return?

The Synod broke into rooms to discuss what key lessons have been learned, and what processes can be used to go forward.

A brief joint discussion was held following termination of the break out rooms. It was felt that some older members may not have the skills to navigate digitally held services. It was felt that help would and should be available to those people. Online services had been popular, and as there is no singing allowed for the foreseeable future, would it be better to continue online. It was felt by some members that online services would have to continue.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm with the grace.