

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2019 at Chesham Bois Parish Centre, Chesham Bois.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Matt Beeby, Mike Bisset, Jeremy Brooks, Ian Brown, Chris Clare, John Goodman, Tim Harper, Paul Henderson, James Leach, Christoph Lidner, Nnamdi Maduka, Cassa Messervy, Debbie Oades, John Shepherd, Peter Simmons, Graham Summers, Jenny Tebboth, Ben Topham, Martin Williams.

House of Laity:

Janet Allen, Jan Bartlett, Liz Bell, Michael Carmody, Zoe Clark, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Chris Embleton-Smith, Peter Flory, Stephen Fitzjohn, Frances Hall, Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Dave Kidner, Judy Knight, Roger Leslie, Keith Lucas, David Mackie, Jean Meakin, Ruth Moores, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty, Deborah Sanders, Maren Saville, James Score, Susan Shyvers, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Linda West.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Simon Cansdale, Derrick Carr, Lawrie Clow, Chris Gercke, Sue Gill, Michael Johnson, David Whale.

House of Laity:

Monica Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Mary Benthall, Margaret Carey, David Carter, Nigel Edward-Few, Margaret Gingell, Martin Josten, Gilbert Knight, Mary Lee, Hilary Povey, Trevor Sharkey, Maren Saville, Peter Simmonds, Roy Stroomer, Cobus Van der Walt, Eddie Weiss, Peta Woollett.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Visitors: Vicky Burton, Francis Mobrey, Angela Burgin, Janine Dunnell, Eileen Baldwin, Mike Baldwin, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, David Lillycrop

Minutes of the meeting held at Chesham Bois Parish Centre on 20th March 2019

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

- 1) At 7.55pm Mr Peter Flory from Chesham Bois welcomed the Synod. Peter Flory and Vicky Burton led the opening worship.
- 2) Apologies – these will be taken from the attendance sheet.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held 29th November 2018 were agreed.
- 4) Matters Arising: None.
- 5) Finance – Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer). Rev'd Martin Williams expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Synod, for all the work Mrs Dziegiel does.

Formally the Deanery Synod was suspended, and the Amersham Deanery Trust meeting commenced.

Mrs Dziegiel gave a brief outline of Amersham Deanery Trust and asked the meeting to receive the accounts. She advised the Budget for 2019 was straightforward and that a Designated Fund had been set up called Deanery Designated Fund with £4400 – this fund can be used by the Standing Committee to assist parishes, together with a further £2500 to make small donations to parishes for Mission. Mrs Dziegiel explained the Reserves. Mrs Dziegiel went through the Amersham Deanery 2019 Budget. With regard to application for funds from the £2500 for donations for Mission, parishes would be asked to produce a paper explaining how this was spent. Thanks were extended to Mr Michael Hardman who had examined the accounts.

Mr Hardman was appointed for 2019 by agreement of Synod.

Rev'd Martin Williams thanked Mrs Dziegiel.

The Amersham Deanery Trust Meeting terminated, and the Deanery Synod Meeting recommenced.

- 6) Rev'd Martin Williams spoke on how the Diocese wanted to realise opportunities, and within the Deanery this was already happening. Four speakers would give account of their differing experiences. The Deanery website has slides of all presentations.

Rev'd Christoph Lindner – Leading Your Church Into Growth. (LYCIG) Christoph first introduced Rev'd Nnamdi Maduku who has recently joined Denham Parish, and parish assistant Francis Moloney. Christoph went through the background of how Denham parish became involved with LYCIG, the challenges they faced, and how the scheme had helped the parish to grow through prayer, welcome and sharing. Francis Moloney spoke about the research he did asking what difference did this (LYCIG) make. The church has a vision but what did it mean to the individual.

Q & A followed.

Rev'd Cassa Messervy – Partners in Missional Church Programme and Cassa introduced Janine Dunnell. Cassa spoke about her initial findings of Holy Trinity, Seer Green when she was appointed. She felt that the church was in a framework of 'maintenance ministry' following a long interregnum, and were looking for a change of culture. The PCC had an Away Day to discuss Mission Action Planning, and enquiries were made about joining the Partners in Missional Church Programme. The parish were given two weeks to join the three year programme. The first year was given to listening – to the congregation and community. During a set of interviews it was found that there was an inner circle, bulk, outer circle – a warm welcoming congregation, but no follow up – children numbers decreasing. Year 2 is an experimental year and year 3 imbeds the missional activity, in partnership with the community. Seer Green have recognised they need to build momentum, have greater engagement with the congregation, have spiritual growth, and there has been a change of direction on PCC.

Q & A Do you have to manage expectations; church seasons impact on timeline?
How are you dealing with those who don't like it – this has taken time.

Rev'd John Shepherd, Hope Church

Emmanuel Church and Hivings Free Church formed a gospel partnership in 2017. It is situated in a deprivation hotspot in the Pond Park/Hivings area in north Chesham. In October 2016 Emmanuel met with the Deacons to form the partnership which saw Messy Church commence. The Baptist church had a small aging population. The Hivings Free church members decided to close the church, in order to reopen as a Hope Church. The Baptist Union agreed to sell it to local Christian trust. Emmanuel agreed but needed to fund £250k, but raised £330k in gifts and pledges which will guarantee the first five years of ministry. A pastor has been appointed, and he joins the Emmanuel team. A group of 30 Emmanuel parishioners have made the move to Hope Church. Hope church will be formally launched on 28th April 2019.

Rev'd Chris Clare, St. Leonards Redevelopment

St. Leonard's Parish has, for many years, had to have some of its Sunday services in the Beacon School, as well as in St Leonard's Church. The Parish Centre is now dated – a host of community events take place in it, and the decision was made to re-develop the whole site, in order to bring the off site services and Parish Centre under one roof. The cost of getting permission was in the region of £250k. Plans have been drawn up, and these have been made available to the local community. There have been difficult conversations with local residents. When the plans have been refined and agreed, fundraising will take place

- 7) Rev'd Ian Brown (Chalfont St Giles) advised the Synod that a Basic Pastoral Care training session was due to start on 6th April – some spaces still available.

Mr Stephen Fitzjohn (Amersham with Coleshill) spoke about the project Helping Hands an initiative advancing mission to help the homeless who arrive at church.

Mr Dave Kidner (Gerrards Cross) spoke about an online organisation that will host charity websites free of charge.

Finally a warm welcome was extended to new ministers in the deanery – Rev's David Whale (Chenies benefice), Ian Jennings and Nnambi Maduka (Denham) and Matt Beeby (Gerrards Cross)

Rev'd Martin Williams closed the meeting with prayers at 9.35pm