

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2019 at The Parish Centre, St. James Church, Gerrards Cross.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Matt Beeby, Ruth Boughton, Jeremy Brooks, Ian Brown, Sue Gill, Paul Henderson, James Leach, Christoph Lindner, Debbie Oades, Graham Summers, Ben Topham.

House of Laity:

Jan Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Liz Bell, Michael Carmody, Margaret Carey, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Roger Edwards, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Margaret Gingell, Frances Hall, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Martin Josten, Judy Knight, Roger Leslie, Dave Mackie, Hilary Povey, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty, Roy Stroomer, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Cobus Van der Walt, Joan Wainman, Eddie Weiss, Keith Wright.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Mike Bisset, Tim Harper, Michael Johnson, Cassa Messervy, Sharon Roberts, Jill Roth, John Shepherd, Jenny Tebboth, Margot Suter, Martin Whale, Martin Williams.

House of Laity:

Mary Bentall, Chris Embleton-Smith, Stephen Fitzjohn, Jo Herrera, Carol Hornsby, Dave Kidner, Mary Lee, Deborah Sanders, Maren Saville, James Scorer, Peter Simmonds, Linda West.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

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Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) was Chairman.

- 1) At 7.30pm Mr Tebboth welcomed the Synod, followed by prayers and worship, led by Rev'd Matt Beeby.
- 2) Apologies –taken from the attendance sheet.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held 19th September 2019 were agreed with amendment showing the meeting started at 7.30pm not 8pm as recorded.

- 4) Matters Arising: None
- 5) Finance: Mrs Dziegiel went through the 2020 Share Allocations for the Deanery, giving explanation as to how the figures are calculated.

The Parish Giving Scheme is a good scheme, with optional index-linking available.

As many people do not carry cash, churches are looking at contactless giving. The contactless providers do charge a fee for this. The contactless units can be adjusted to set a suggested amount – which can be increased should a donor want to give more. Rev'd Jeremy Brooks said they had tried this at St. Mary's Beaconsfield, and they had found it does take time and the plate cannot get around the church during the offertory hymn.

The Development Fund has been oversubscribed – new applications can be made until the end of January 2020.

The Synod thanked Mrs Dziegiel.

- 6) Locally Based Training in Oxford Diocese. Rev'd Dr David Heywood, Deputy Director of Mission and Ministerial Formation was introduced. Dr Heywood has established links with Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross as he comes from the area. He is responsible for training and development within the diocese. Dr Heywood spoke about the local learning hubs and has been working with Rev'd Tina Molyneaux with Everyday Faith.

The principles are: love one another – discern God's presence – ability to draw on faith when making decisions – explain faith to others – sense God's call in the present as well as the future.

Personal Discipleship Plan – this has been introduced in all but two of the deaneries. This is a conversation with trained counsellors, which consists of 2 steps, one inward and one outward.

There are lots of training opportunities in the Deanery.

Local learning hubs

- a) Learning Champion
- b) Local expertise in teaching
- c) Warm and welcoming
- d) Clergy on board supporting hub
- e) Enough potential learners

The authorised licensed ordained advisers are Revd's Cathy Smith, Tim Yates and Jill Roth.

A Q & A session: Mr Martin Josten asked was the Personal Discipleship Plan a little light – only meeting every three months. The answer was that the meetings cover a broad area and give people space to find spiritual direction.

Revd Ian Brown asked about the content of the course. The aim is the guidelines or enthusiasm of the participants will balance the course. Pilots will see how to get the balance correct, but is basically to understand yourself better, understand other people and listening and understanding others.

Revd Jeremy Brooks told the Synod that there was a Caring Church Course running at Beaconsfield by Revd Margot Suter 20th January to 16th March 2020.

The Synod thanked Dr Heywood.

- 7) Mr Tebboth introduced a short video from Steve Poulson in Honduras, which was well received.

Mr Tebboth asked the Synod whether the Deanery should continue to financially support Steve Poulson. The Deanery was unanimous continuing with the support to Steve Poulson.

- 8) Lay Chair Notes:

Welcome to new Ministers in 2019: Revd Matt Beeby, Revd Margot Suter, Revd Simon Winn, Revd Ben Clarke.

Goodbye 2019: Revd Simon Cansdale, Revd Sylvester Liyanage, Revd Captain Peter Simmons, Revd Ben Topham.

Revd Chris Lion has transferred from Gerrards Cross to Latimer Minister to cover maternity leave.

The meeting divided into small groups to pray for three problems – and prayers were drawn together at 9.05pm.

A short video 'How to Pray for the General Election' given by Bishop Steven Croft at Diocesan Synod was shown. Bishop Steven is on sabbatical in early 2020.

Thanks were given to St. James's Church for hosting this Synod meeting and for the refreshments.

Mr Lawrence Tebboth closed the meeting with prayers at 9.25pm