

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held by Zoom commencing 8 pm on 18th March 2021.

Present: House of Clergy:

Mike Bisset, Edward Bowes-Smith, Ian Brown, Tim Harper (coAD), Philip Lovegrove, Brian Ludlow, Peggy Ludlow, Cassa Messervy (AAD), Ross Mungavin, Debbie Oades, Sharon Roberts, Graham Summers, Margot Suter, Jenny Tebboth, David Whale, Martin Williams (CoAD).

House of Laity:

Janet Allen, Sarah Banks, Jan Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Mary Benthall, Margaret Carey, David Carter, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Roger Edwards, Andrew Farncombe, Stephen Fitzjohn, Peter Flory, Cathy Franklin, Margaret Gingell, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Dave Kidner, Judy Knight, Jackie Lambert, Mary Lee, Hazel Miller, Ian Mitton, Andrew Patterson, Hilary Povey, Jacqueline Rose, Jonathan Rushworth, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Hannah Tew, Joan Wainman, Cobus Van der Walt, Mary Webster, Eddie Weiss, Linda West.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Ruth Atkinson, Tim Barnard, Matt Beeby, Jeremy Brooks, Benjamin Clarke, Sue Gill

House of Laity:

Hazel Chow, Zoe Clark, Carol Hornsby

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Visitors: Geoffrey Brand

Rev'd Martin Williams (CoAD) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with the Chairman welcoming the Synod, especially those new members following APCM. Thanks were given in advance to Mr Dave Kidner who was in charge of the zoom operation for this meeting, and to those people who are leading break out rooms later on in the meeting.

Rev'd Martin Williams read John 12.23-26, followed by prayers.

- 2) Apologies – six had been received before the meeting.

3) Minutes of the Last Meeting:
The minutes were approved.

4) Matters Arising.

a) Bucks Historic Church Cycle Ride – Looking for a new organiser. Do speak to Lawrence Tebboth if you are interested.

b) Mr Nigel Edward-Few is on the Oxford Diocesan Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The aim is to try and serve those with deafness. There are 5 churches in the Diocese which hold a service on the first Sunday in the month. This is online at the present. The Council are trying to get a picture of how many churches have loop/signers or some sort of provision for these people.

Welcome to new members of the Synod and to Revd's Brian and Peggy Ludlow who are Associate Ministers at Latimer. They have just returned from 5 years in Western Australia. Bishop Alan has asked Rev'd Peggy Ludlow to take on an Assistant Area Dean role, as she has some experience in this.

5) Election of Lay Chair for the period 2021 - 2024

Mr Lawrence Tebboth has agreed to stand again. There were no other candidates.

Proposed: Mr Nigel Edward-Few

Seconded: Mrs Stephanie Summerell

Voted for overwhelmingly

Election of Treasurer for the period 2021 – 2024

Mrs Julie Dziegiel has agreed to stand again. There were no other candidates.

Election of Secretary for the period 2021 – 2022

Mrs Dorothy Potter agreed to stay in post for one year.

Rev'd Martin Williams expressed his thanks.

6. The Synod meeting closed; The meeting of Amersham Deanery Trust opened:

Mrs Julie Dziegiel advised that Amersham Deanery Trust gives the Deanery a legal structure. The Standing Committee are Directors, and all Synod members are members of the trust. This trust is limited by guarantee of £1 each.

Annual Accounts and AGM

The statement shows a deficit of £8880 – this was not a planned deficit and it may be only a start if parishes are unable to make their parish share. Reserves are below our Reserves Policy and Mrs Dziegiel expects this to be the case at the end of 2021 as some parishes will need assistance.

There were questions raised regarding the Deanery supporting parishes. Mrs Dziegiel advised that the expectation was to support parishes in the region of £22k in 2021 – she was already receiving questions regarding help with parish share.

Mr Nigel Edward-Few said that the vast proportion of the deficit is for parish support.

The Deanery Synod was asked to receive the accounts, and approve the Budget. Deanery Synod was also asked to endorse Mr Michael Hardman as the Financial Examiner – many thanks were expressed for the work he has done.

Proposed: Mr Lawrence Tebboth

Seconded: Rev'd Cassa Messervy

Approved by a show of hands.

The meeting of Amersham Deanery Trust closed: The meeting of Amersham Deanery Synod re-opened.

7. Area Dean's Notes: Parishes were working to the timetable to re-open churches, but there is no pressure to do so. Bishop Alan was pleased to see so many services online.

New Marriage Registration Act comes into force on 4th May 2021. There is online training and the responsibility for registration is with the minister who takes the service. What is behind it? Unlawful marriage and to avoid people gaining citizenship who are not entitled to it.

Bishop Alan is worried about how many vacancies there are in the Deanery.

A big 'Thank You' to all of those moving on and to those retiring – thanks especially go to Rev'd Canon Tim Harper.

Mrs Jacqueline Rose of Great Chesham: Rev'd Chris Gerke (4th year curate) has been furloughed – expressed deep concern about this and she has spoken to Archdeacon Guy. No curate has been furloughed without discussion. There have been difficulties with curates

looking for another post and those with children who have been home schooling. Mr Nigel Edward-Few said that people found this difficult to swallow given that 4 new archdeacons have been appointed. Mr Stephen Fitzjohn said that posts need to be filled as soon as possible. There seems no sign of the Diocese moving with the times – congregations are leaving. Long delays following antiquated rules. Mrs Dziegiel said that vacancies are important – it gives lay people the opportunity to step forward.

It was felt that it would be good to have this discussion at a later Synod.

8. Any other business: None

9. How we move forward? After disasters groups are sent in to listen for signs of life. Can we learn something from this?

Breakout group for 10 minutes

Rev'd Canon Tim Harper to lead shared communion; Rev'd Cassa Messervy to give a short reflection.

Before the Synod closes: There was a gift for both Rev'd Canon Tim Harper and Rev'd Cassa Messervy to show the gratitude of the Synod for all their work.

Rev'd Martin Williams thanked all who attended and closed the meeting with prayer at 21.21pm

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