

## **AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD**

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held by Zoom commencing 8 pm on 26th November 2020.

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

Ruth Atkinson, Mike Bisset, Edward Bowes-Smith, Jeremy Brooks, Ian Brown, Chris Gerke, Tim Harper (coAD), Jim King, Cassa Messervy (AAD), Ross Mungavin, Debbie Oades, Sharon Roberts, Margot Suter, Jenny Tebboth, Simon Winn.

### **House of Laity:**

Janet Allen, Jan Bartlett, Andrew Bell, David Carter, Steve Cooper, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Chris Embleton-Smith, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Cathy Franklin, Margaret Gingell, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Carol Hornsby, Dave Kidner, Judy Knight, Martin Josten, Jackie Lambert, Roger Leslie, Hazel Miller, Ian Mitton, Andrew Patterson, Derek Portwood, Hilary Povey, Jacqueline Rose, Jonathan Rushworth, Trevor Sharkey, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Joan Wainman, Cobus Van der Walt, Mary Webster, Eddie Weiss, Linda West.

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

Tim Barnard, Matt Beeby, Benjamin Clarke, Sue Gill, Cassa Messervy, Martin Williams (coAD).

### **House of Laity:**

Hazel Chow, Zoe Clark, Hannah Tew

**Secretary:** Dorothy Potter

Visitors: Sarah Banks, Michelle Fotherby.

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Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) 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.

- 2) Devotions – Synod joined in song with “There is a Redeemer” played by Lindsey Mackie. Rev’d Ian Brown then led is in a short devotion.
- 3) ) Minutes of the Last Meeting:  
The minutes were approved.
- 4) Matters Arising.  
None
- 5) Any Other Business:  
Mrs Stephanie Summerell advised that details of the recent Diocesan Synod meeting are on the Deanery website – if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact one of the Diocesan representatives.

The Chairman drew Synod’s attention to the UK Governments’ Independent Faith Review that individuals can submit comments to.

- 6) Finance: Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) presented the 2021 Amersham Deanery Parish Share Allocations and went through how this was calculated. The Q & A session asked whether the explanation as to calculation could be given before the meeting. A question was raised that do all the parishes in the Deanery meet their share, and was advised 2 parishes are receiving assistance. Another member suggested that the share would rise in 2022 and was there any suggestion as to what this might be. The answer was no as there is concern what the recovery will be like in the parishes. All treasurers are kept informed. Mrs Dziegiel went on to say that the budget showed no increase over last year, and full rebate is being made to the parishes. Committed monthly giving has proven resilient in the pandemic which is why both it and the Parish Giving Scheme are recommended. The Share Allocation was agreed by a show of hands.
- 7) Living Well through the next 6 months – Oxford Diocesan Webinar Discussions

During November, Oxford Diocese had arranged a number of dates for Webinars on the subjects of:

- Rebuilding ministry with children
- Working with adults coming to faith

The Synod broke into 11 groups which had a leader that had attended one of the Webinars.

On returning after the group discussions a number of comments were made: General lament on working with children – challenges around the pandemic. A feeling of breakdown as churches not seeing many families. Some churches were doing intergenerational worship so young people feel they belong. Looking at online services – better use of this medium. Shorter talks at the beginning of a service and a longer one at the end has proved successful. Pressed volunteers are not going to work! One church

has enough resources to one service – and this is an integrated service with children taking an active part. A talk rather than a sermon.

#### 8) Area Dean/Lay Chairs Notes

The Chairman welcomed to the Deanery Rev'd Edward Bowes-Smith (Great Chesham), Revd's Daf Meirion-Jones, James Forward and Ross Mungavin (St James GX & Fulmer), and Revd' Ruth Atkinson (Penn St & Holmer Green). The Revd's Brian and Peggy Ludlow will be instituted at Chenies & Latimer in January.

We have said goodbye to Rev'd James Leach from Gerrards Cross. In 2021 Rev'd Ian Brown from Chalfont St Giles will be retiring in May –the parish still is looking for a Families Worker. Also going in 2021 is Rev'd Canon Tim Harper Co-Area Dean who will be retiring from Amersham with Coleshill.

We were unable to contact Steve Poulsen in Honduras following recent sever storms. Subsequent to Synod, we are able to confirm his safety and congratulate him on his engagement!

The meeting closed with the Grace.

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be Thursday 18th March 2021.