

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2019 at The Parish Hall, Chalfont St. Peter.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Mike Bisset, Ruth Boughton, Jeremy Brooks, Tim Harper, Cassa Messervy, Debbie Oades, Graham Summers, Ben Topham, David Whale, Martin Williams.

House of Laity:

Jan Bartlett, Monica Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Liz Bell, Margaret Carey, David Carter, Zoe Clark, Nigel Edward-Few, Roger Leslie, Chris Embleton-Smith, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Michael Hardman, Carol Hornsby, Martin Josten, Judy Knight, Roger Leslie, Susan Shyvers, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Cobus Van der Walt, Eddie Weiss.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Ian Brown, Sue Gill, Michael Johnson, Sharon Roberts.

House of Laity:

Margaret Carey, Michael Carmody Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer, Stephen Fitzjohn, Frances Hall, Jacquie Hardman, Dave Kidner, Mary Lee, Dave Mackie, Hilary Povey, Ruth Moores, David Rafferty, Deborah Sanders, Maren Saville, Trevor Sharkey, Stephanie Summerell.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Minutes of the meeting held at The Parish Centre, Chalfont St. Peter on 18th June 2019

Rev'd Cassa Messervy (Assistant Area Dean) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm Rev'd Martin Williams welcomed the Synod, followed by prayers and worship, led by the team from Chalfont St. Peter.

The subject of Synod is 'Creatively Connecting Church and School for the sake of the Gospel'.

- 2) Apologies –taken from the attendance sheet.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held 20th March 2019 were agreed.
- 4) Matters Arising: None.
- 5) Rev'd Cassa Messervy introduced this evenings' topic. The first speaker was Michelle Fotherby, Children's and Families Worker at Beaconsfield, employed by St. Mary's Church. The parish wishes to create opportunities for young people to access the Gospel, 7 days a week and works across nurseries, primary and secondary schools, being a bridge between the church and the community. Schools take part in festivals and Year 4 took part in interactive workshops for 1 term on Understanding Easter which tied in with Religious Studies in the National Curriculum. Schools in Beaconsfield have adopted TLG – Transforming Lives for Good, where one person sees one child, once a week for one year – to help children with a specific need. Michelle also participates in 'school gate ministry' and finds this invaluable to pick up pastoral issues. The slides for her talk are available on Amersham Deanery website.

Q & A How can your work be replicated in parishes without funds to employ a Children's Worker? Job is more about empowering others. Identify natural leaders.

Is there a need for Deanery to have a meeting to talk this through? Many resources are available such as Open the Book.

The Synod thanked Mrs Fotherby for her talk.

Mr Toby Long, Diocesan Education Advisor. Mr Long gave a brief summary: He is a SIAMS inspector, Governor, church Warden. He was the Headteacher at St. Georges School, Little Chalfont. The Diocese is responsible for 283 schools – infant, junior, primary and some secondary schools. These schools are for all – and not a faith school. All Church Schools have Christian Vision which is rooted in bible teaching and values. In our Deanery there are 9 Church of England schools: St. Georges, Little Chalfont, St. Mary's, Amersham, Coleshill Infant School, Seer Green, Chesham Bois, Gerrards Cross, Beaconsfield, Chalfont St. Peter, Curzon. ODBE supports schools which includes Head recruitment. Leadership teaching and learning, governance support, training, SIAMS, buildings, premises and admissions. Schools pay into a service level agreement.

A short Q & A took place, followed by the Synod thanking Mr Long for his talk.

The planned presentation by Mr Charlie Kerr was cancelled owing to his short-term unavailability.

- 6) Adoption of Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. Individual parishes should have signed up to this, but as a Deanery we need to do it too.

Mr Steve Johnson, Safeguarding Officer from Amersham with Coleshill gave a brief outline of his prior history. The Diocese are insisting that all parishes look at their Safeguarding procedures, and bring them up to date and in line with the Diocesan Safeguarding policy. Many parishes are now catching up – it was something to aspire to but procedures not effective. Other policies which are included in the overall umbrella of Safeguarding is: training, Lone Working Policy (including pastoral visits), Risk Assessments, to keep records of worries.

Motion: To formally adopt Diocesan Safeguarding Policy

This was agreed by a show of hands.

Post Meeting Note: Details of the policy were not circulated beforehand. A further discussion will take place at the next Deanery Synod.

- 7) Diocesan Pilgrimage: Rev'd Cassa Messervy had brought a number of leaflets regarding St Frideswide Pilgrimage that will take place on Saturday 19th October – five different routes leading to Christ Church Cathedral.

- 8) Oxford Common Vision - High Level Event. This was attended by Revd's Tim Harper, Martin Williams, Cassa Messervy, Debbie Oades and Mrs Julie Dziegiel. This looked at the journey so far, reflecting on what Common Vision is, and isn't, seven focus areas, what is happening during 2019 and what can be done to further the vision.

Development Funding has been launched with up to £2500 available for missional activities for any individual parish. More information on Diocesan website. The Diocesan one page flier explaining this scheme was made available at the meeting.

- 9) Finance: The increase in parish share for 2020 will be 2.2%, but variable across the Deanery. Amersham Deanery Trust has sent £1000 to CMS to support Steve Poulson who came to talk to the Synod in November last year. A grant has been made to Penn Street and Holmer Green to support them with their ongoing problems with the parsonage house.

- 10) AOB: Diocesan Synod. Synod's notice was drawn to the report on the Diocesan Synod which arrived shortly before the meeting and is available on the Deanery website. Of particular note were the Bishop's presentation of the Oxford Common Vision and Digital

Evangelism where it was reported that Amazon's Alexa has had over 75,000 questions asked about faith.

- 11) Rev'd Simon Cansdale, Rector of Great Chesham is moving to Winchester, and Rev'd Capt Peter Simmons is retiring later this year.

Thanks were given to Chalfont St Peter for hosting this Synod.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm with the Grace.