

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in Christ Church, Waterside, Chesham on 14th March 2024 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Dan Beesley, Darren Dalton, Brian Ludlow, Peggy Ludlow (AD), Brian Ludlow, Jenny Tebboth, Ed Bowes-Smith, Margot Suter, Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson.

House of Laity:

Heather Ashby-Rose, Sarah Banks, Jean Batchelor, Andrew Bell, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Roger Edwards, Peter Flory, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Dave Knowles, Sandy Leighton-Jones, Hazel Miller, John Nash, Brian O'Regan, Hilary Povey, Don Sanderson, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Nicholas Thompson, Kristel Van Wauwe, Joan Wainman, Anthony Bargioni.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Laurie Clow, Victoria Jones, Christoph Lindner, Jeremy Moodey, Jim King, Debbie Oades, Jonny Rapson, Sharon Roberts.

House of Laity:

Hazel Chow, Jean Batchelor, Hilary Forbes, Jackie Lambert, Ian Mitton, Derek Portwood, Mary Webster, Ian Mitton, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Dorothy Potter.

Visitor: None

Rev'd Peggy Ludlow (Area Dean) was Chair for the meeting.

- 1) The meeting began at 8 pm with the Chair welcoming the Synod, and leading Synod in a short remembrance of the life of Bishop Alan Wilson. Rev'd Darren Dalton then led the meeting worship bible reading and address.
- 2) Apologies – these will be taken from the signing in sheet, in addition to those given to the Secretary ahead of the meeting.
- 3) Minutes of the Last Meeting – 23rd November 2023:
The minutes were approved by a show of hands.
- 4) Matters Arising.
None.

- 5) Area Dean's Notes had been circulated prior to the meeting on the Amersham Deanery Website. The Rev'd Daf Meirion-Jones is leaving St James Gerrards Cross and Fulmer to be Vicar at Penn St and Holmer Green.
- 6) AOB – none tabled.

Synod was then adjourned, and a meeting of the House of Laity convened chaired by Dr Andrew Bell.

Meeting of Amersham Deanery House of Laity.

The meeting of the House of Laity concerned the election of Deanery Lay Chair and Assistant Lay Chair for the remainder of the 2023 to 2026. One nominated and seconded application had been received from Mr Lawrence Tebboth. Mr Lawrence Tebboth was therefore declared elected. No nomination for Assistant Lay Chair had been received, and therefore the position remains vacant.

The Meeting of the House of Laity was therefore concluded, and Synod reconvened.

- 7) Election of Deanery Officers.

Deanery Treasurer. One nominated and seconded application had been received from Canon Julie Dziegiel. There being no other applications, Julie was duly elected to serve as deanery Treasurer to the end of the 2023 to 2026 Triennium.

Dorothy Potter has also agreed to remain as Deanery Secretary.

The Chairman thanked all those duly elected, but asked Synod to consider who could join the Deanery team with a view to the eventual transition of the leadership roles.

The Chairman also noted the recent award to Julie of Honorary Lay Canonry of Christ Church.

Synod was then adjourned, and the Annual General Meeting of the Amersham Deanery Trust (ADT) was convened.

The ADT Report and Financial Statements for 2023 had been posted on the Deanery Website, and copies were distributed at the meeting. Julie Dziegiel then presented the budget for 2024. It was noted that the rundown of reserves below policy level had continued into 2024. This was a result both of a reduction in rebate from the Diocese following the Deanery not making its full Parish Share, and also the continuing demand to meet some ongoing issues within the Deanery. In response to a question, Julie stated that that to date payments made by some Deanery churches to the Good Stewardship Trust had qualified as meeting parish share.

Synod duly voted unanimously to accept the ADT 2024 budget.

Synod also voted for the continuation of Mr Michael Hardman as external examiner.

The ADT AGM was then concluded and Synod reconvened.

8) Parish Development Advisor

Synod welcomed the Rev'd Asa Humphreys, Asa.Humphreys@oxford.anglican.org the Parish Development Advisor (PDA) for the Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry. Asa has come to this role after a varied career as both a lay worker and ordained priest. His role as Development Advisor is to work with parishes during their time of vacancies and working with them towards a new appointment. It was noted that there are 27 vacancies in the Archdeaconry which is more than the planned target of 25 for the whole of Oxford Diocese. The PDA role has no direct authority, but has links to the many other skills and roles within the Diocesan team.

Asa stressed the importance of prayer in the preparation for a new appointment.

9) Group Discussion

There followed a short time of small group discussion where the Chairman asked Synod to share amongst themselves where God had been recently present in individual and church lives.

10) Diocesan and General Synod Update. Lawrence Tebboth had provided a synopsis of the March 9th meeting of the Diocesan Synod in the website.

The main emphasis of the Synod was the new Diocesan Vision of: "Sharing God's love with children and young people: transforming our engagement and recommitting to our Diocesan strategy". The amended Resolution carried at the end of Synod was; *'That this Synod endorses the need to significantly increase our engagement with children, young people, families and schools building on Disciples Together, **and to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and calls on every deanery and benefice in 2024 to develop plans and partnerships for growth**'.*

Rev'd Jeremy Moodey had provided a General Synod report in the Deanery Website.

11) The amendment clause to the resolution is shown in bold, and Lawrence stated that this surely is what should be at the core of our Christian Discipleship. Lawrence then briefly talked through some of the slides from Bishop Steven's presidential address, noting that this vision involves us all at Diocesan, Deanery and Parish level. The presentation is on the Deanery Website.

The Children and Young People vision will form the major part of the next Deanery Synod, and further details of how this will be organised, and invitations for contributions will be forthcoming.

Post Meeting Note:- Bishop's Steven's full presidential address to Synod is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tr4xwSbZerM> and on the Deanery Website.

The Synod meeting was closed by Rev'd Peggy Ludlow with the Grace at 9.35pm.

Next Synod Meeting including Amersham Deanery Trust AGM is Thursday 20th June at location to be decided.