

## **AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD**

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2018 at St James Centre, Gerrards Cross.

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

Mike Bisset, Susan Gill, John Goodman, Tim Harper, Cassa Messervy, Sharon Roberts, Jill Roth, Peter Simmons, Ben Topham, Martin Williams.

### **House of Laity:**

Jan Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Peter Flory, Frances Hall, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Jo Herrera, Martin Josten, Judy Knight, Roger Leslie, David Mackie, Jean Meakin, Ruth Moores, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty, James Score, Trevor Sharkey, Susan Shyvers, Peter Simmonds, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Cobus Van der Walt, Eddie Weiss, Peta Woollett, Keith Wright.

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

Tim Barnard, Ruth Boughton, Derrick Carr, Chris Clare, Lawrie Clow, James Leach, Chris Lion, Debbie Oades, Francis Orr-Ewing, Graham Summers.

### **House of Laity:**

Monica Bartlett, Liz Bell, Mary Benthall, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Margaret Gingell, Ian Hamilton, Janna Holder, David Kidner, Mary Lee, Keith Lucas, Hilary Povey, Maren Saville, Linda West,

**Secretary:** Dorothy Potter

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Minutes of the meeting held at St. James Parish Centre, Gerrards Cross on 29th November 2018

Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm Mr Tebboth welcomed the Synod. Rev'd Jill Roth welcomed Synod members to St James, and led the opening prayer, which included singing How Great Thou Art accompanied by Neil Wilson.
- 2) Apologies – these will be taken from the attendance sheet.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held 20th September 2018 were agreed.
- 4) Matters Arising: None.
- 5) Steve Poulson – Deanery Mission Partner.

Steve was impressed that the meeting started on time as timekeeping is an aspiration in Honduras.

He thanked the Synod for asking him to come and speak and for the support Synod had given him.

Steve presented a slide show, talking through the variety of things he does in Honduras with young people, his interaction with some gang members and his hopes for the future.

Steve's slides can be viewed on the Amersham Deanery website

<https://www.amershamdeanery.org/uk/data/documents/meetings/29thNov18/Street%20Kid.pdf>

Steve spoke about the migrant caravan – there are some 9000 people waiting at the Mexican border – these are people with no hope but trying to get to the USA is not the answer. Honduras is one of the world's poorest countries and corruption is widespread. One of the youngsters he was supporting – Kevin 1 has left to join the migrant caravan. Kevin was on a scholarship with SKD following being beaten not only by his parents but by gangs. Abuse is prevalent. Steve asked for help by prayer, giving, and to go and see the work in Honduras.

A Q & A session took place. Steve advised that him being in Honduras was a constant presence and it had had a huge impact after only one year, working with the locals. None of the children are old enough to work.

The Synod thanked Steve warmly, and asked the Standing Committee to consider further payment in support of his work.

- 6) Finance: Deanery Share Allocations 2019. Mrs Dziegiel presented the Deanery Share Allocation for 2019. This is based on 18.5 full time posts in the Deanery and a House for Duty post. Mrs Dziegiel asked the Synod to accept the Share Allocation:

Mr Tebboth proposed acceptance of the 2019 Share Allocation.

This was accepted by a show of hands. There were no votes against, and no abstentions.

Mrs Dziegiel thanked the Synod and Mr Michael Hardman for his help and his work as Independent Examiner, and it was proposed that he is appointed as Independent Examiner for 2019

Proposed: Mrs Julie Dziegiel

Seconded: Mr Andrew Bell

Agreed by a show of hands.

- 7) Parish Giving Scheme. Mr Jonathan de Bernhardt-Wood from Oxford Diocese kindly agreed to come and talk to the Synod regarding the Parish Giving Scheme. He joined the Diocese in 2016 to develop the Parish Giving Scheme. A number of slides were shown: these included showing

which Diocese were the wealthiest and which gave the most. There are 821 churches in Oxford Diocese.

The Living Generously Booklet was introduced – this is a Diocesan publican encouraging readers to give with time, attention, wealth, talents, possessions, reputation and comfort.

A leaflet ‘An introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme’ was discussed. This leaflet sets out how the scheme works. There is no charge to a parish to join the scheme – the Diocese pays the licence of £25 per church; it saves time; it is anonymous; it can be inflation linked giving – 2/3rd of givers invoke this.

It was hoped that the slides would be on the Amersham Deanery website by Christmas, but scanned copies of the introduction leaflets will be uploaded.

8) AOB: Area Dean’s Notes were available.

Mr Martin Josten spoke about Rethink!, a series of 40 outreach events taking place in ten of the Deanery Churches in conjunction with the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologies. Eleven of the events had 1100 participants.

Mrs Stephanie Summerell gave a brief outline of the recent Diocesan Synod.

Mr Tebboth thanked the Synod members for attending and closed the meeting with The Grace at 9.50pm