

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2018 at the St. Mary Magdalene, Flaunden.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Ruth Boughton, Ian Brown, Cassa Messervy (Assistant Area Dean), Debbie Oades, Ben Topham,

House of Laity:

Jan Bartlett, Monica Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Liz Bell, Mary Bentall, Linda Bryan, Margaret Carey, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Stephen Fitzjohn, Frances Hall Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Jo Herrara, Janner Holder, Martin Josten, David Kidner, Gilbert Knight, Judy Knight, Mary Lee, Roger Leslie, Ruth Moores, David Rafferty, Mauren Saville, Trevor Sharkey, James Scorer, Trevor Sharkey, Susan Shyvers, Peter Simmonds, Roy Stroomer, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Cobus Van der Walt, Peta Woollett, Keith Wright.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Mike Bisset, John Goodman, Tim Harper (Area Dean), James Leach, Christoph Lindner, Chris Lion, Sharon Roberts, Peter Simmons, Camilla Walton, John Went, Martin Williams (Area Dean).

House of Laity:

Michael Hardman, , Keith Lucas, David Mackie, Jean Meakin, Noel Meredith, Hilary Povey, Ann Ralph, Deborah Sanders, Eddie Weiss, Linda West.

Visitors: Francesca Hall-Drinkwater

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

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Rev'd Cassa Messervy (Assistant Area Dean) was in the Chair.

- 1) At 8pm Rev'd Cassa Messervy welcomed the Synod and thanked St. Mary Magdalene for hosting the meeting and for providing refreshments including home made biscuits. Rev'd Ruth Boughton gave a brief history of the church, read a sonnet for Pentecost and led the opening prayers.

- 2) Apologies – these will be taken from the attendance sheet.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held 28th February 2018 were agreed.
- 4) Matters Arising: this will be dealt with after the speaker.
- 5) Janner Holder: Children and Family Minister, Seer Green and Jordans.

[Janna's slides can be viewed on the Amersham Deanery website](#)

Janner works with Holy Trinity, Seer Green and the Baptist Church in the area with all age groups in a variety of ways.

Janner gave a brief outline of her background, her calling and her appointment and arrival at Seer Green in 2004 as a part time Children and Family worker. Janna spoke about what happens on a Sunday: Sunday morning services, Sunday School and Family Services, and wonders 'Does Sunday School have a place any more? Janna spoke about the interaction between the church and the local schools, where there are lots of opportunities. She has led Open the Book and has given 7 years of weekly bible stories. Open the Book is widely highly regarded, and features in many of the local primary schools. Regular Activities – Janna meets different age groups on different nights and has a girls youth club. On a Wednesday she meets parents and pre school children at the Baptist Church. Holiday time – Holiday Club caters for up to 100 children each day, and this has links to other communities, and this ends with a family barbeque. The summer holidays are long and the Baptist church can be very accommodating. As people have grown up and left there are new opportunities for parents to get involved.

Relational – it has taken 8 years to confirm the relationship with the local community and acknowledges that it is a privilege to walk with the highs and lows of relationship.

Relevant – how do we make faith relevant – it is another place to 'fit in'. if it's not relevant, it won't work.

Reliable/reputable – Janna has twice run Messy Church – it didn't work. Children do not want to miss Holiday Club.

Real – real life stories make church alive

Above all – it is Rewarding!

Rev'd Cassa Messervy thanked Janna for her inspirational talk, which was followed by a Q & A session

- 6) Deanery Plan. This is in preparation by the Lay Chair, who is focused on support to individual churches based on individual Mission Action Plans. A set of basic questions to be sent out to

explore common themes. Please send latest Mission Action Plans to the Deanery Secretary and Lay Chair.

- 7) Diocesan Synod Elections Amersham Deanery qualifies for 4 clergy members and 6 laity members. Please do consider standing. Paperwork regarding this has been issued.

- 1) Finance: Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) spoke to remind Synod members of the benefits of Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), but it seemed many members were not aware of PGS at all. The Diocese of Oxford has recently introduced the [Parish Giving Scheme](#), which is an excellent means of encouraging greater generosity within your church. The scheme enables people to give to their church by direct debit, and there are significant benefits to this scheme compared to other ways of giving. Gift aid is automatically processed by the Parish Giving Scheme every month, saving the church considerable time and improving cashflow. Additionally, givers can choose to automatically increase their giving by the rate of inflation every year. This tackles the problem of static giving, where people's giving ordinarily remains the same year on year whilst the costs of the church rise continually due to inflation. Givers can also choose to give anonymously if they wish. Over 20 dioceses have adopted the Parish Giving Scheme, and all are seeing increases in giving as a result. All PCCs should look at the Parish Giving Scheme. Further information will be presented at a future Synod meeting.

- 2) AOB: There will be a series of talks in Seer Green in September with topics such as Trump/Fake News.

Mr David Rafferty (Amersham on the Hill) spoke regarding forms sent out regarding Historic Churches Trust – only 3 forms have been returned. Please reply ASAP, even if not taking part.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9.15pm