

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in St James Church, Gerrards Cross on 23rd November 2023 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Matt Beeby, Dan Beesley, Michelle Fotherby, Sue Gill, Christoph Lindner, Brian Ludlow, Peggy Ludlow (AD), Jeremy Moodey, Jonny Rapson, Sharon Roberts, Graham Summers, Jenny Tebboth, Samuel Thorp.

House of Laity:

Heather Ashby-Rose, Andrew Bell, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Hazel Chow, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Roger Edwards, Chris Embleton-Smith, Peter Flory, Hilary Forbes, Cathy Franklin, Margaret Gingell, Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Sheila King, Mary Lee, Sandy Leighton-Jones, Hazel Miller, Ian Mitton, John Nash, Brian O'Regan, Andrew Patterson, Derek Portwood, Susan Pounce, Hilary Povey, Jacqueline Rose, Jonathan Rushworth, Don Sanderson, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Nicholas Thompson, Kristel Van Wauwe, Joan Wainman, Eddie Weiss.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Jez Carr, Laurie Clow, Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson, Edward Millais, Debbie Oades.

House of Laity:

Sarah Banks, Jean Batchelor, Dave Knowles, Jackie Lambert, Grant Masom, Mary Webster.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Visitor: Kate Bowers, James Bowers, Richard Bolton, Ian Roche, Gill Walmsley, Corrine Summers.

Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with the Chairman welcoming the Synod, and thanked Rev'd Matt Beeby for the use of St James' Church and for their hospitality. Rev'd Matt Beeby opened the meeting with bible reading and prayers
- 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 – 22nd June 2023:
The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

- 4) Matters Arising.
None.
- 5) Area Dean's Notes: Rev'd Michael Johnson, St Thomas Beaconsfield will be moving to Cornwall thereby creating a vacancy within the Beaconsfield parish. Please pray for Rev'd Debbie Oades currently in hospital with a back injury. Beaconsfield Parish will be running a Caring Church Course starting 18th January 2024.
- 6) Finance – Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) spoke about finance – both parish and Deanery. There has been a significant reduction in income and this has meant a reduction in the amount of rebate given to parishes – it is some £16k for 2024. Mrs Dziegiel went on to explain the parish share allocation for the deanery - this is available on the website. Mrs Dziegiel expressed that no parish has an increase that is unaffordable. The question of average Sunday attendance once again was raised – this is the figure taken as an average over 4 Sundays in October.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Michael Hardman for his help in preparing the Parish Share and Allocation

Thanks were given to Mrs Dziegiel for all her hard work.

- 7) General Synod Update -Rev'd Jeremy Moodey gave a General Synod Update. There are three members of Synod who are on the General Synod: Rev'd Jeremy Moodey, Mrs Julie Dziegiel and Dr Andrew Bell. There was a small majority in favour of LLF issue of blessings of same sex marriage following the split at the February 2023 Synod. Any change to doctrine needs a 2/3rd agreement in all three houses. The Bishop of Oxford raised an amendment asking the House of Bishops to consider the introduction of stand-alone services of blessing on a trial basis which was approved by just one vote in the House of Laity. Prayers that can be done need agreement of the PCC and Clergy. Pastoral guidance has not been published.
- 8). Steve and Lindsey Poulson Update. Steve and Lindsey provided a short video of their activities since returning to Honduras. They are currently supporting two girls aged 9 and 11 years who are selling things on the street. They live in a house where some 20 people live – no access to education or health facilities. The barber shop has been open for a year and they are looking to open a hair salon as well as a new coffee shop.
- 9). AOB – none
10. Let everything that has breath- Praise the Lord – Sean Groombridge. Sean led us in a discussion of the role of music in worship. The Synod first broke into groups do discuss what impact music has in worship. There appeared to be a conflict of opinion on this. Are voices all of us? Small Groups in church do not reflect community. The use of lots of resources. 'Club' membership. Younger generation do not like the old hymns.
11. Synod concluded with the worship song "Yet not I, but yet Christ through me.

The Synod meeting was closed by Mr Lawrence Tebboth with the Grace at 9.35pm.

Next Synod Meeting including Amersham Deanery Trust AGM is Thursday 14th March at Christchurch Waterside, Chesham.