

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2017 at St Mark's Hall, Denham.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Mike Bisset, Jeremy Brooks, Ian Brown, John Goodman, Tim Harper (Area Dean), Christoph Lindner, Chris Lion, Ben Topham, Camilla Walton, Martin Williams (Area Dean).

House of Laity:

Judith Babb, Louise Baneke, Monica Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Mary Benthall, Peter Bright, Margaret Carey, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Steve Cooper, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Chris Embleton-Smith, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Frances Hall, Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, David Kidner, Roger Leslie, Keith Lucas, David Mackie, Jean Meakin, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty, James Scorer, Peter Simmonds, Roy Stroomer, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) George Thackray, Cobus van der Walt, Eddie Weiss, Linda West.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Ruth Boughton, Dorothy Brooks, Derrick Carr, Chris Clare, Lawrie Clow, Chris Gerke, Sue Gill, James Leach, Cassa Messervy, Debbie Oades, Sharon Roberts, Di Rowlandson, Peter Simmons, Graham Summers, Jenny Tebboth, John Went.

House of Laity:

Jan Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Zoe Clark, Christopher Cook, Margaret Gingell, Janna Holder, David Heeley, Martin Josten, Gilbert Knight, Mary Lee, Ruth Moores, Rodney Newth,), Hilary Povey, Deborah Sanders, Don Sanderson, Trevor Sharkey, Susan Shyvers, Peta Woollett, Keith Wright.

Visitors: Anne Thomas, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

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Rev'd's Tim Harper and Martin Williams (Area Deans) were joint chair.

- 1) At 8pm Rev'd Martin Williams (AD) called the meeting to order, welcomed new Synod members and invited Rev'd Christoph Lindner to begin proceedings. Rev'd Christoph Lindner quoted Mark 1.1 'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God' – rather apt for a new Synod. After prayers the Synod were invited to singing Christ is our corner stone.

- 2) Introduction – Rev'd Tim Harper went through the circulated sheet, to talk through the role of the two new Area Deans. Bishop Steven had expressed that he thought the role of Area Dean for large Deaneries should be shared, as the workload is too much for one individual. Attention will be given to supporting Clergy - Curates and LLM's have their own support. Rev'd Tim Harper (AD) confirmed that LLM's are welcome to attend Chapter.

The Synod meeting was suspended – Laity only

- 3) To Confirm Mr Lawrence Tebboth as Lay Chair. As Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) was the only Laity member of Standing Committee in attendance, she invited Laity to confirm Mr Tebboth as Lay Chair – no other members had come forward for this post. The Laity gave Mr Tebboth over whelming support by a show of hands with no dissention. Mr Tebboth was duly elected as Lay Chair.

The Synod meeting resumed.

- 4) Apologies – these will be taken from the attendance sheet.
- 5) Minutes of the meeting held 24th May 2017 were agreed and accepted by a show of hands.
- 6) Matters Arising – Steve Poulson: The Synod reviewed the decision of the last meeting to return the matter of making a donation to Steve Poulson to this meeting. Mrs Louise Baneke advised that Steve Poulson now has the car he was seeking funds for, and all donations are made via CMS.

A proposal, by Mr Michael Carmody, for the Deanery to make a donation of £3500 as a one off payment. This payment to be made via CMS.

- 7) Mission and Pastoral Committee – Papers have already been circulated, but 4 lay members are invited to put themselves forward for this committee by way of a short profile. This committee has overview of all developments in the parishes, and meets at least 3 times a year.
- 8) Towards a Common Vision – Rev'd Martin Williams (AD) gave a brief talk on the background of the circulated document, and how this can be used within the Deanery and parishes. Based on the Beatitudes and the teaching of Jesus and then asks what are the marks of a Christ-like Church.

Rev'd Martin Williams (AD) asked the Synod to split into 9 groups to consider what would a church look like if it tried to live out all 3 (Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous)? More material will be coming out, including a Lent Group.

Group 1 – The need to be courageous, for clarification. A strong focus on schools: clarification on exactly what and why.

Group 2 – Excited by the document. Courageous resonated- what does it look like for a church, deanery, diocese.

Group 3 – Schools should be places for mission. Question on how we are serving our parishes.

Group 4 – Courageous – a struggling parish has immense courage. Collaboration with other churches. Inspired by new developments in Milton Keynes.

Group 5 – Wide ranging discussions, using topics 2,3,6 Renewing discipleship and mission and how to equip people locally.

Group 6 – Common vision – useful usable document by individual, parish or deanery.

Group 7 – Hospital chaplaincy – this is funded by NHS. Schools – most fertile time is in primary education. Milton Keynes needs money.

Group 8 – A comprehensive document – to use as a tool to identify where parishes are, and an aid to mission and to use with other parishes.

Group 9 – The 3 C's are difficult to separate, but focus on Milton Keynes is vital. How will this play out in parishes?

Milton Keynes is the newest city with the lowest C of E church attendance.
Rev'd Martin Williams thanked everyone for taking part.

- 9) Finance: Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Treasurer) advised that the bank account needs 3 signatures. She needs to bring this up to date, reflecting new Area Deans and Lay Chair.

Proposal: Permission to amend signatures to include Rev'd Tim Harper, Rev'd Martin Williams and Mr Lawrence Tebboth

This was agreed by a show of hands.

- 10) AOB: None.

Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) closed the meeting with prayers at 9.10pm