

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in Chesham Bois Parish Centre on 20th June 2024 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Dan Beesley, Brian Ludlow, Peggy Ludlow (AD), Brian Ludlow, Jenny Tebboth, Sue Gill, Laurie Clow, Victoria Jones, Jeremy Moodey.

House of Laity:

Heather Ashby-Rose, Sarah Banks, Anthony Bargioni, Jean Batchelor, Andrew Bell, Margaret Carey, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Chris Embleton-Smith, Peter Flory, Margaret Gingell, Ian Hamilton, Tom Kitching, David Knowles, Sandy Leighton-Jones, Hazel Miller, Marion Miles, Peter Miles, Andrew Patterson, Derek Portwood, Susan Pounce, Stephanie Shinner, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Nicholas Thompson, Joan Wainman, John Young.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Jez Carr, Michelle Fotherby, Lucy Fyfe-Jamison, David Hyndman, Phil Nightingale, Christoph Lindner, Jim King, Debbie Oades, Margot Suter, Daf Meirion-Jones.

Apologies House of Laity:

Jackie Lambert, Ian Mitton, Dorothy Potter, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Hilary Povey, Don Sanderson, Helen Savage, Nicholas Thompson, Kristel Van Wauwe, Mary Lee, Hilary Forbes, John Nash.

Visitors: Janice Barrett, Ali Cork.

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 opening in prayer. Rev'd Laurie Clow then led the meeting with a bible reading and worship.
- 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 – 14th March 2024:
The minutes were approved by a show of hands subject to an amendment to Item 10 which should refer to synopsis of both General and Diocesan Synods provided at the Deanery website.

4) Matters Arising.
None.

5) Area Dean's Notes. The Lay Chair introduced this item summarising the vacancies and changes in the Deanery. Both Area Dean and Lay Chair had been invited to consultation meetings concerning the appointment of the new Bishop of Buckingham. Please pray for God's right person to be called to this position. Interviews are planned for October with an announcement in November.

6) Elections to Oxford Diocesan Synod (2024-2027).

Three nominations were received for the three allocated places in the House of Clergy. Deanery representatives are therefore:

Rev'd Edward Bowes
Rev'd Peggy Ludlow
Rev'd David Whale

Rev'd Jeremy Moodey as General Synod member also is a member of Diocesan Synod.

Three nominations were received for the five allocated places in the House of Laity. Deanery Representatives are therefore.

Mr Peter Flory
Mrs Helen Savage
Mr Lawrence Tebboth.

Dr Andrew Bell and Mrs Julie Dziegiel as General Synod members are also member of Diocesan Synod.

Retiring Diocesan Synod representatives are Mrs Stephanie Summerell, Mr Michael Hardman, Mr Eddie Weiss. The Chairman thanked them for representing the Deanery.

A report of the last Diocesan Synod meeting of 8th June are on the Deanery Website.

7) Any Other Business

None received.

8) Disciples Together.

Putting children, young people and families at the centre of a more Christ like church

As recorded in the previous Deanery Synod of 14th March, The Oxford Diocesan synod had passed the resolution:

‘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’.

The remainder of Deanery Synod was then dedicated to a discussion of this topic.

Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) introduced the discussion using a Powerpoint Presentation (available on the Deanery Website at <https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/ddocuments.html>).

The Diocesan Synod resolution is in Slide 9.

Slide 12 contains the link to the introductory presentation from Bishop Steven Croft.

Following this, Synod was invited to form smaller breakout groups to discuss;

“What issues are stopping our churches flourishing as all age inter-generational communities?”
under the headings of:

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

Break out groups were provide with flip charts to record their views. These will be collated and summarised for next synod.

Between each breakout sessions there were individual contributions from Rev’d Laurie Clow and Rev’d Victoria Jones on their churches and individual experiences with Children and Young Families experiences.

The Rev’d Phil Nightingale had been asked to provide a view of his work with chaplaincy to the secondary school Chesham Academy. There was insufficient time to show this at Synod, but the video is on the Deanery Website.

The breakout groups were finally asked to discuss and feedback on;

How can we best support each other across the Deanery? What Diocesan resources would help?

The Synod meeting was closed by Rev’d Peggy Ludlow with the Grace at 9.40pm.

Next Synod Meeting including Amersham Deanery Trust AGM is Thursday 12th September at location to be decided.