

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in St Georges Church, Little Chalfont 28th November 2024 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Dan Beesley, Michelle Fotherby, Brian Ludlow, Victoria Jones, Peggy Ludlow (AD), Jeremy Moodey, Jonny Rapson, Sharon Roberts, Margot Suter, Jenny Tebboth, David Whale, Laurie Clow, Victoria Jones, Jeremy Moodey.

House of Laity:

Heather Ashby-Rose, Anthony Bargioni, Margaret Carey, David Carter, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Chris Embleton-Smith, Peter Flory, Hilary Forbes, Sandy Leighton-Jones, Marion Miles, Peter Miles, Hazel Miller, Ian Mitton, Dorothy Potter, Hilary Povey, Jacqueline Rose, Don Sanderson, Helen Savage, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Nicholas Thompson, Wynne Thorndike, Kristel Van Wauwe, Joan Wainman, Eddie Weiss, Caroline Wiggins.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Jez Carr, Lucy Fyfe-Jamison, Sue Gill, Debbie Oades, Graham Summers,

Apologies House of Laity:

Kathy Franklin, Margaret Gingell, David Knowles, Mary Lee, John Nash, Derek Portwood, John Young.

Visitors: Roger Hamlock.

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 David Whale 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 – 20th June 2024:
The minutes were approved by a show of hands subject to inclusion of Cathy Franklin's name as she did attend the meeting.
- 4) Matters Arising.
None.

- 5) Area Dean's Notes. An announcement has been made that Rev'd Dave Bull is to be the next Bishop of Buckingham.
- 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.

Four 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.
Mr Eddie Weiss

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

- 7) Mission and Pastoral Committee: Both Clergy and Lay members are needed.

- 8) General Synod Update

Rev'd Jeremy Moodey spoke about LLF and a range of other topics. There is a need for clergy to have 36 rest hours and Bishop Steven Croft has already messaged stipendiary clergy regarding this. General Synod meets in February. There is a proposal for parishes to register which are willing to perform prayers after same sex marriage. Canon Dziegiel responded that there were different opinions regarding LLF. She also and urged the Synod members to read the Makin Report which has brought up immense safeguarding issues and became a factor in the resignation of Archbishop Justin Welby. Synod also noted the debate concerning the upcoming reading in parliament of the Assisted Dying Bill

9) FINANCE

Canon Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) presented the 2024/2025 Parish Share.

Canon Dziegiel apologised to clergy – they will not have seen the proposals yet. Please note that voting will be on allocation of share to parish – not payment.

2024 Share Allocation. After revision, parishes were given back 1% of share during 2024. One parish appealed their allocation.

The subject of the House for Duty post at Seer Green has been discussed throughout the year. It is hoped that a resolution will be agreed.

Chalfont St Peter disagree with having to pay Parish Share as they are without a priest. Canon Dziegiel expressed that the allocation represented a post – not a person.

Seer Green and Jordans expressed disagreement with the parish Share – there is an ongoing discussion with the Diocese regarding House for Duty. Janine Dunnell, Churchwarden for Seer Green and Jordan has requested the following to be included in the minutes.

We cannot accept the 0.4 of ministry costs assigned to our parish for 2024 and 2025. We don't think it is fair that our vicar does not receive a stipend, but that we pay a stipend amount that supports the stipends of the 17 full time vicars in our Deanery, and that they then have a reduced rate. We will pay the cost of the housing allocated to us of £11,180.85 for 2025. We recognise that this is still in dispute with the Deanery.

We also can't accept the 1 SSM who has been assigned to our Parish for the calculation of training costs. While we accept that this was an error from the Diocese, we do not receive that amount of support from the SSMs of Chalfont St Giles, but only a small proportion. They should both be assigned to Chalfont St Giles. We think that the error should be corrected for 2025.

Canon Dziegiel drew the synod's attention that rebate is reducing.

Canon Dziegiel went through the 2025 Parish Share allocation, explaining to those who wanted clarification on specific items. There was some comment about allocation and fairness – Parish Share is a voluntary contribution – those who can afford share with those that cannot.

A vote was taken:

REVISED PARISH SHARE ALLOCATIONS 2024

Proposed: Don Sanderson

Seconded: Canon Dziegiel

3 votes against
4 abstentions

Vote carried.

PARISH SHARE ALLOCATIONS 2025

Proposed: Canon Dziegiel
Seconded: Mr Lawrence Tebboth
3 votes against
5 abstentions

Vote carried.

Canon Dziegiel paid tribute to Mr Michael Hardman who has been involved with Deanery Finance for two decades.

There were many thanks to Canon Dziegiel for all her work in this very difficult year.

10) Rev'd Vicky Jones and Rev'd David Whale spoke about Estate Ministry

Rev'd Vicky spoke about her background – coming from Wales as a Children & Families Minister, and how the ministry at Little Chalfont had grown – growth with people who have no money, The recent visit from the Bishop of Oxford who had seen at first hand what developments had been made, and how the church had adapted its ministry to meeting the needs of the local community. The result of this is people coming to Sunday services.

11) There was a video link from Steve and Lindsey Poulson regarding their work in Honduras. Lindsey is expecting a baby in March 2025.

Rev'd David Whale led a worship song to close the meeting, which was closed by Rev'd Peggy Ludlow with the Grace at 9.50pm.

Next Synod Meeting including Amersham Deanery Trust AGM is Thursday 13th March 2025 at location to be advised.