

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in St Mark's Hall, Denham on 22nd June 2023 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Dan Beesley, Sue Gill, Christoph Lindner, Peggy Ludlow (AD), Nnamdi Maduka, Jonny Rapson, Jenny Tebboth, Samuel Thorp.

House of Laity:

Andrew Bell, David Carter, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Roger Edwards, Chris Embleton-Smith, Peter Flory, Cathy Franklin, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Dave Kidner, Sheila King, Jackie Lambert, Mary Lee, Sandy Leighton-Jones, Hazel Miller, Ian Mitton, John Nash, Brian O-Regan, Jacqueline Rose, Don Sanderson, Trevor Sharkey, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Nicholas Thompson, Kristel Van Wauwe, Joan Wainman, , Mary Webster, Eddie Weiss, John Young.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Jez Carr, Brian Ludlow, Jeremy Moodey, Debbie Oades, Graham Summers, Margot Suter.

House of Laity:

Hazel Chow, Margaret Gingell, Grant Masom, Andrew Patterson, Derek Portwood, Hilary Povey.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Visitor: Janelle Stevenson, Rev'd Jim King, Steve and Lindsey Poulson

Rev'd Peggy Ludlow (Area Dean) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with the Chairman welcoming the Synod, and thanked Rev'd Christoph Lindner for the use of St Mark's Hall, Denham and for their hospitality. Rev'd Nnamdi and Sandra opened the meeting with bible reading and prayers. Rev'd Christoph Lindner led the worship songs.
- 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:
The minutes were approved with one or two minor amendments on the apologies sheet.
- 4) Matters Arising.
For some, this will be the last Synod meeting, and for others 'Welcome'. Mr Lawrence

Tebboth (Lay Chair) drew the Synods' attention to a vacancy for Deanery Environmental Lead – and suggested that anyone interested should seek more information from the Diocesan website.

- 5) Finance – Mrs Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) advised that the parish of Great Chesham decided in March not to pay the Parish Share for April, May and June. The implication on this is that the Deanery will not get the full rebate from the Diocese. Mr Ian Hamilton, Synod representative from Great Chesham said that the PCC had decided to wait to pay the Parish Share. However, the non-payments in April, May and June mean that the 50% of Deanery Share was not able to be paid by 30th June, so the rebate will not be received. The budget will be reworked and presented at the next meeting.
- 6) Area Dean's Notes: Welcome to Rev'd Lucy Fyle-Jamieson at Beaconsfield and Rev'd Craig Lerner at Gerrards Cross, and to Rev'd Sam Thorp, the new incumbent at Penn & Tylers Green who joins us this evening. Goodbye to: Rev'd Ben Clarke who has gone to America, Rev'd Ross Mungavin who is moving to Belfast and to Rev'd Chris Clare who is retiring to Sheffield.
7. AOB None
8. Welcome to Steve and Lindsey Poulson. Steve and Lindsey arrived in the UK from Honduras this afternoon. Steve spoke about CMS – Street Kids Direct and Proyecto Alas. This is a programme for children aged 8, not in school and on the streets – they are usually working, begging or in trouble. Steve thanked the Deanery Synod for their continued support. He and Lindsey spoke at length about people they have helped, the intervention programmes and successful outcomes. There is a paper about this on the Deanery website.

There was a question and answer session

1. Who is mentoring – there is a team of about 20 locals in active churches
2. Personal Safety – Steve and Lindsey are lucky as they have their own transport. Honduras is not a safe place. They have a certain level of security in gangland as the leaders know who they are.
3. What percentage of boys and girls? This is about 50/50.

Rev'd Peggy Ludlow gave warm thanks which was followed by a round of applause. Due to the heat a short break for additional refreshments was taken.

Rev'd Peggy Ludlow introduced Tsungai Muchegwa who is the Area Safeguarding Officer. Her background is social work – children, adult and hospital.

Safeguarding – churches to be as safe as can be – it is everyone's responsibility. 5 years ago there was no training and people could struggle to find information.

An audit challenged the culture allegations took too long to be investigated. The Diocese did not involve outside organisations.

Present Day: on the way – progress has been made. The Safeguarding Team have identified areas of improvement so do not repeat errors made in the past.

We should always anticipate new challenges – such as Soul Survivor.

There is no defined time when people can disclose abuse.

Priorities of the Safeguarding Team

Priority 1

Practice; resilient team; robust oversight

Priority 2

Support and engagement with survivors and respondents. Respondents need support.

Priority 3

Support to parishes

Safeguarding Team

There are 5.8 full time members in the Diocese. The office cover is 5 days a week and there is outside office support in the evenings. The aim is 2 days response time.

The change in safeguarding culture is made via:

Ongoing learning

Clergy trained as well as church officers

Safer recruitment policies

DBS renewal every 3 years.

A question and answer session took place

Safeguarding in schools where clergy visit – schools have their own safeguarding policies

Rev'd Peggy Ludlow thanked Tsungai for coming to the meeting and the Synod showed their thanks by a round of applause.

Next Deanery Synod will be on Thursday 14th September at Christ Church, Chesham

The Synod meeting was closed by Rev'd Peggy Ludlow with the Grace at 9.35pm