

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2017 at St Michael and All Angels Church, Amersham on the Hill.

Present: House of Clergy:

David Allsop, Tim Barnard, Mike Bisset, Ruth Boughton, Ian Brown, Sue Gill, Tim Harper (Assistant Area Dean), Sharon Roberts, Graham Summers, Ben Topham.

House of Laity:

Louise Baneke, Monica Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Mary Benthall, Peter Bright, Megan Brodie, Michael Carmody, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Andrew Farncombe, Margaret Gingell, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, David Heeley, Martin Josten, Sheila King, Gilbert Knight, Judy Knight, Tim Podesta, Dorothy Potter (Sec), Hilary Povey, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty, Don Sanderson (Lay Chair), Stuart Stockdale, Stephanie Summerell, , Eddie Weiss, Peta Woollett, Keith Wright.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Jeremy Brooks, Derrick Carr, Debbie Oades, Di Rowlandson, John Shepherd, Peter Simmons, Jenny Tebboth, Narinder Tegally, Camilla Walton, Tom Watts.

House of Laity:

Judith Babb, Megan Brodie, Linda Bryan, Margaret Carey, Zoe Clark, Chris Emery, Peter Flory, Mike Hooley, Ingrid Kemp, Mary Lee, Jean Meakin, Keith Lucas, Ann Middleton, Ruth Moores, Susan Shyvers, Peter Simmonds, Graham Skinner, Roy Stroomer, Oosman Tegally, Anne Thomas.

Minutes of the meeting held at St. Michael and All Angels, Amersham on the Hill on 23rd February 2017.

Rev'd Tim Harper, Assistant Area Dean, officiated:

At 8.05pm Rev'd Tim Harper the Synod members, thanked St. Michael and All Angels for their hospitality and led the opening prayers.

- 1) Apologies – these will be taken from the attendance sheet.

- 2) Minutes of the meeting held 22nd November 2016 were agreed and accepted by a show of hands.
- 3) Matters Arising – there were no matters arising.
- 4) Area Dean's Notes: These have been circulated, but Rev'd Tim Harper wanted the Synod to know that he had received a letter of thanks from Bishop Steven, and he in turn wanted to thank the parishes of Beaconsfield and Chesham for their hospitality, and Chiltern Hills Academy and Chesham Foodbank.

Confirmations: two dates available 7th May 2017 and 22nd October 2017.

Movements: Rev'd David Allsop is retiring at Easter – Synod showed their appreciation for his support over the years. Rev'd Benjamin Topham is moving to Gerrards Cross from Chalfont St. Peter at Easter, and Rev'd Narinder Tegally is moving to Bath at Easter.

The Synod was advised that Rev'd Camilla Walton (Area Dean) would not be returning to work until later in the summer. She and her husband Ken, are in our thoughts and prayers.

2017 is a Synod Election year and Mr Don Sanderson (Lay Chair) is standing down after seven years' service as Lay Chair.

- 5) Speaker – The Synod welcomed Mr Steve Poulson, CMS Mission Partner. Steve Poulson gave a brief history – he has been in the area all his life, went to Chesham Bois School, was Head Boy at the Amersham School. He joined Duncan Dyason and became Youth Worker at St. Mary's Church where he worked for 6 years in total. He has joined CMS and is to become a Mission Partner in Honduras with Street Kids. Honduras is the poorest country in the world, where 95% of women suffer domestic abuse, and many children find living on the street preferable to living at home. Steve spoke about a young man called Franklin who is 14 years of age, but looks about 11 years old – this being due to a very poor diet. He attends school in the morning, but works on the refuse dump in the afternoons to earn 1 \$1- this work is run by gangs. The Police in Honduras ensure that the children pay the gang. CMS was started in 1799 by William Wilberforce, and still has the same principles today. Steve is currently still training, but is due to go to Honduras on 24th April 2017. He is to be employed by CMS but seconded to Street Kids Direct whose aim is that no child is having to live on the street in Guatemala and Honduras. Street Kids Direct is run by Duncan Dyason who lives and works in Guatemala. Street Kids Direct run Radio Christmas which is broadcast every two years. Steve will have 3 main objectives in Honduras
 - a) To build capacity in established organisations – review of food, economics, aesthetics.
 - b) Discipleship. To apply what has been learned to the situation in new culture.
 - c) Fundraising in Honduras. Most funds are received from overseas, but the aim is to set up small businesses and to get the wealthier inhabitants to support them.
 How to get involved. Steve showed the paper, The Call, which is produced by CMS, by fundraising, partnering with CMS. Steve is partnered with Chesham Bois, St Mary's, Goring and Streetly and Long Buckby, Northants.

Steve told of another example of a young girl called Rita, who lived on the streets with her four siblings, one a few months old. They were taken to live in a children's home, and supported through CMS .. she is now a teacher, and an example of success, although there are many others.

A Question and Answer session took place.

What is being done to improve the Government and society to deal with children more appropriately.

Many countries are run by oligarchs and wealthy individuals who have political power. The aim is to pay people a fair wage and to try and change the culture. To make people aware, to try and stop corruption. One person cannot change society but collectively influence can be brought to bear.

How many children are catered for? 62 children living permanently and over 100 children are attending school.

Local church community? 55% are RC, 40% Pentecostal. All projects have been started by the Pentecostal church.

Steve's Funding – still somewhat short, has had to raise this himself – 2 budgets; 1 for personal support eg eating, living costs, return visits to UK, NHI and pension – has funding for one year, and Grant Budget for travel in Honduras as he needs transport this is £20k which still needs to be raised.

What are you doing and where does the Gospel come in? Mission is holistic and the Gospel proclaiming Good News is integral – all things come from this.

Rev'd Ian Brown put forward a proposal:

To Support Steve as a Synod Mission Partner

Steve was thanked for coming to talk to the Synod meeting, and this concluded with a prayer for him.

- 6) Finance: Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) presented the Amersham Deanery Trust Report which for the year ending 31st December 2016 showed a deficit of £25998.97, £24,603.49 of which relates to the outreach grant to parishes – 15 of the 16 parishes claimed grants of up to £1800 - £7078.79 is to be refunded to parishes. The AD Discretionary Fund is to be removed. It was suggested that a summary was produced in how each parish spent the grant money. A question was asked about the reserve's policy – this is 2 year's rebates. Income is dependent on parishes paying the Parish Share. The actual expenditure is low.

Proposal – to adopt this report

Accepted by the Synod

Amersham Deanery budget 2017. As there are no training courses planned, no allowance has been made this year. £37,500 is to be returned to the parishes. Basis for rebate: 100% of the parish share is received by end of November and a 3% rebate is received. If paying by DD parishes wouldn't have made 100%, but the accounts reflect as if it is.

The payment made to the Area Dean was questioned as it is £10 more this year. Mrs Dziegiel advised she had a formula and this year there was an extra £10 to find.

Proposal – to accept the budget

Agreed by the Synod

Proposal – for Mr. Michael Hardman to be the Independent Examiner for the forthcoming year

Agreed by the Synod

Thanks were given to Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) for all her hard work.

- 7) Forthcoming Synod Election. 2017 is a Deanery Synod Election year – at the May Synod, members may be elected to the Mission and Pastoral Committee. As Mr Don Sanderson (Lay Chair) is stepping down, a new Lay Chair should be nominated at this time.
- 8) General Synod – Rev'd Tim Harper thanked Mr Andrew Bell for producing a very detailed summary on the February meeting of the General Synod.

Rev'd Sue Gill (Amersham with Coleshill) closed the meeting with prayers at 9pm