

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in The Fitzwilliam Centre, Beaconsfield on 16th September 2021 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy:

Matt Beeby, Michael Johnson, Christoph Lindner, Brian Ludlow, Peggy Ludlow (CoAd), Daf Meirion-Jones, Jeremy Moody, Debbie Oades, Sharon Roberts, Graham Summers, Jenny Tebboth, Martin Williams (CoAD).

House of Laity:

Sarah Banks, Andrew Bell, Mary Bentall, David Carter, Zoe Clark, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Chris Embleton-Smith, Andrew Farncombe, Peter Flory, Frances Hall, Judy Knight, Mary Lee, Hazel Miller, Brian O-Regan, Andrew Patterson, Hilary Povey, Jacqueline Rose, Jonathan Rushworth, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Joan Wainman, Eddie Weiss,

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Mike Bisset, Edward Bowes-Smith, Chris Clare, Sue Gill, Ross Mungavin,

House of Laity:

Jan Bartlett, Margaret Carey, Janine Dunnell, Cathy Franklin, Margaret Gingell, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Jo Herrera, Dave Kidner, Jackie Lambert, Ian Mitton, John Nash, Hannah Tew, Cobus Van der Walt, Mary Webster, Linda West.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Visitors: Marcus Lee, Christine Edwards, Rev'dCarolynn Croisdale-Appleby

Rev'd Martin Williams (CoAD) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with the Chairman welcoming the Synod, especially those new members following. Thanks were given to the team at Beaconsfield for providing refreshments prior to the meeting.

Rev'd Michael Johnson led the opening prayers.

- 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.

4) Matters Arising.

Mr Nigel Edward-Few objected to the phrase in the minutes 'it gives lay people a chance to step forward' mentioned by a Synod member. He cited that Rev'd Edward Bowes-Smith is struggling to cover 7 churches in the Great Chesham team, and it is felt that to do anymore would damage family life.

5) Finance. Mrs Dziegiel advised that in the Deanery there were two parishes struggling through this difficult time, but overall in a good place. There will be no increase in allocations in 2022. Mrs Dziegiel is hoping to meet the with the Treasurers in person.

Rev'd Martin Williams thanked Andrew Bell (General Synod) and Stephanie Summerell (Diocesan Synod) for their reports which are on the Deanery website.

6. Visit to Oberammergau – this will now take place on 16th June 2022. There are some 18 spaces available if anyone would like to take part in this. (3 spaces as of 21 October).

7. Area Dean's Notes: Following the retirement of Rev'd Canon Tim Harper, Rev'd Peggy Ludlow has been appointed as Co Area Dean. With a wealth of experience, and as a former Area Dean, we are grateful for her commitment. Rev'd Martin Williams is stepping down as Co- Area Dean with immediate effect due to work and family commitments. We also said farewell to ministers moving on and welcomed Rev'd Phil Nightingale and Rev'd Jeremy Moody at Great Chesham Parish and Rev'd Roland Slade at Chalfont St Peter.

8. Continuing the Rebuilding -1.

Speaker, Rev'd Brian Ludlow – A faith perspective of Occupational and Public Health aspects of the Covid pandemic.

Brian has a background in Public and Occupational Health and has 40 years in a medical background. Brian spoke about Issues in the Pandemic: Stress – already a significant issue. Covid contributed in a number of ways: ministry stopped doing what you usually do; have to do risk assessments before doing normal activities; a deluge of last minute guidance; loss of support; paperwork! Long hours 25% work more than 5 days; 32% feel they must work more than 48 hours a week; 61% of people working excess hours do so unpaid and only 20% seek help.

Community sense of expectation: Congregations expect more – self driven expectations.

Wellbeing: Lament; rest; prayer; healing

Final thought: How easy it is to miss the bigger picture.

(Presentation on Deanery Website)

9. Continuing the Rebuilding -2.

Speaker, Rev'd Gill Lovell, Parish Development Officer Buckingham Archdeaconry Learning and Questions for our Churches as we rebuild.

Gill spoke some of the good things that have come out of the pandemic - of a small rural church which had closed during the pandemic. People began gathering in the churchyard, and continued to do so – these people were not churchgoers. Gill also spoke about a venue in a Milton Keynes estate called Chatterbox. This was open to anyone who felt isolated. It started with 15 people using this, but now caters for more than 45. It is made up with 1/3rd congregational members, 1/3rd other religions 1/3rd general population.

Gill also spoke about a benefice that consisted of 6 churches that had never interacted before – now meet regularly on Zoom.

Clergy are thankful, hopeful, excited about how things will be going forward. They are tired and uncertain, anxious about money, loss of congregations, loss of families.

Gill used slides which are on the Deanery website.

Comments/questions

1. Recognise what is wrong. How do we get back to where we were 2 years ago
2. How do we capitalise on Zoom

10. Any other business:

Next Synod is 25th November 2021 at St James Centre, Gerrards Cross. There will be an election to Mission and Pastoral Committee which consists of 4 House of Clergy and 4 Lay members, and will be for a 3 year term.

General Synod: Three delegates in the Deanery are standing: Andrew Bell, Julie Dziegiel and Rev'd Jeremy Moody. Please vote!

Mr Lawrence Tebboth thanked Rev'd Martin Williams for his service as Co Area Dean, for his wisdom and steering through difficult issues.

Rev'd Martin Williams closed the meeting with prayer at 9.35pm.