

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the zoom meeting held on 17th September 2020.

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Matt Beeby, Jeremy Brooks, Ian Brown, Sue Gill, Tim Harper (coAD), Jim King
Christoph Lindner, Ross Mungavin, Sharon Roberts, Margot Suter, Martin Williams (coAD),
Simon Winn.

House of Laity:

Janet Allen, Jan Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Zoe Clark, Janine Dunnell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer),
Nigel Edward-Few, Roger Edwards, Chris Embleton-Smith, Margaret Gingell, Francesca Hall-
Drinkwater, Ian Hamilton, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Carol Hornsby, Dave Kidner,
Judy Knight, Mary Lee, Roger Leslie, Keith Lucas, Hilary Povey, Ann Ralph, David Rafferty,
Jacqueline Rose, Trevor Sharkey, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George
Thackray, Cobus Van der Walt, Joan Wainman.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Mike Bissett, Edward Bowes-Smith, Lawrie Clow, James Forward, Cassa Messervy, Debbie
Oades, Jill Roth, John Shepherd, Jenny Tebboth.

House of Laity:

Liz Bell, Margaret Carey, Peter Flory, Jo Herrera, Martin Josten, Philip Lovegrove, Deborah
Sanders, Maren Saville, Roy Stroomer, Eddie Weiss, Linda West.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Minutes of the zoom meeting held at on 17th September 2020

Rev'd Martin Williams (co Area Dean) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with Rev'd Martin Williams welcoming the Synod, especially those new members following APCM, followed by prayers.

1a) Minutes of the Last Meeting. To show Carol Hornsby and Judy Knight attending the meeting. The minutes were approved.

1b) Matters Arising. None.

- 2) Area Deans Notes: These were circulated in advance of the meeting. The Synod was also advised that Rev'd Ian Brown, Rector of the Parish of Chalfont St Giles with Seer Green will be retiring in May 2021. Rev'd Martin Williams (coAD) advised that the Licensing of Rev'd Edward Bowes-Smith as Rector of Great Chesham took place on 14th September.
- 3) The Rev'd Ruth Atkinson will be licensed at Penn Street Holmer Green in November.

At this point the meeting of Amersham Deanery Synod was suspended at the meeting of Amersham Deanery Trust commenced

- 4) Finance: Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) confirmed that the Amersham Deanery Trust Finance Report had been recirculated. Mrs Dziegiel asked for any questions and one was raised by Rev'd Jeremy Brooks as to why £96k was kept in reserve (*required by the Charity Act to show the reserves – Mrs Dziegiel referred him to the report where it is explained*) and the other from Mr Embleton-Smith as to why the Deanery retained £5k from the rebate from the Diocese (*The Deanery has expenses too, which are shown in the budget*).

The Accounts were received.

3b) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Mrs Dziegiel thanked Mr Michael Hardman who examined the accounts, not taking any fee for doing so. It was hoped that he would be prepared to do this again next year, which he agreed to do.

This was approved by a show of hands.

3c) Budget

Although late in the year to be discussing the Budget, there had been an increased amount given to the Designated Fund, so that parishes could be assisted, if necessary. There will be more information about this at the next Synod.

A question was raised about Sabbatical payments that are provided for in the Budget – when the Bishop approves a sabbatical, which is normally three months, the minister may apply for a sabbatical payment, which is normally £500. Ministers have to apply to the Diocese first, but the Deanery has the option of giving up to £500. The Diocese may make a grant also. The minister continues to receive a salary. The Budget allows for two sabbatical payments.

The Budget was approved by a show of hands.

Rev'd Martin Williams wanted to record the thanks of the Synod to Mrs Dziegiel for all her hard work.

*The meeting of Amersham Deanery Trust closed and
The meeting of Amersham Deanery Synod recommenced.*

- 5) Rev'd Martin Williams introduced a short video prepared by Mrs Nicola Flower, Head Teacher of Gerrards Cross School, on the challenges of being head of a church of England Primary School as children return for the first time since lockdown in March.

Mrs Flower opened the video by saying she had been with the school for some time, and was Deputy Head before becoming Headteacher. She said that the pandemic had created many challenges – pupil absences, how to cope when staff go sick, meeting the expectations from the government and from parents. Testing is key. How are the children coping – the children are OK, they adapt very well and have acceptance of the situation. Parents are harder to cope with – they have lost contact with the school as they are not allowed into the school building.

How can Church support school? With prayer for a) health, for all who have dealings with the school b) School – for staff to be able to provide hope and joyful moments, for them to be creative – schools are positive places.

Collective Worship – this can be done in key stages, but is difficult for whole schools to meet. Some schools are streaming this online, and others are doing it by class.

Thanks were given to Mrs Flower for a lovely insight into school life at this critical time.

The Synod broke into groups to discuss 'How we can encourage and equip local schools'.

- 6) The Scattered Church – Rev'd Martin Williams

In September the church gears up after the summer break. This year has been different and changes can happen every week and new approaches have been made and welcomed. Different churches have been doing different things – some online, some by seasons. Martin reflected that he went to the licencing of Rev'd Edward Bowes-Smith, Rector of Great Chesham on Monday 14th September and it was wonderful to be in a church setting again.

- 7) Video Presentation – Before You Go Back by Nick Cuthbert

Nick Cuthbert gave a powerful presentation on why do we do what we do. Church is scattered at the moment, but at some point we will meet again. Why?

This presentation is on the Deanery website – if you missed it, do watch it.

Following the presentation the Synod broke into groups to discuss what was seen.

Rev'd Martin Williams said that the church leaders do not have all the answers – but this is an exciting time. Rev'd Canon Tim Harper said that these were early days and we are feeling our way.

Thanks were given to all who took part in the Historic Churches Ride and Stride.
Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) closed the meeting with prayer at 9.15pm

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be Thursday 26th November.