

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2019 at St Margaret's Church, Tylers Green

Present: House of Clergy:

Tim Barnard, Mike Bisset, Ian Brown, Tim Harper, Cassa Messervy, Graham Summers, Ben Topham.

House of Laity:

Janet Allen, Monica Bartlett, Andrew Bell, Liz Bell, Michael Carmody, David Carter, Christopher Cook, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Chris Embleton-Smith, Stephen Fitzjohn, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Jacque Hardman, Michael Hardman, Jo Herrera, Martin Josten, Dave Kidner, Judy Knight, Mary Lee, Roger Leslie, Dave Mackie, Hilary Povey, David Rafferty, Jacqueline Rose, Maren Saville, James Scorer, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), George Thackray, Cobus Van der Walt, Linda West, Keith Wright.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Matt Beeby, Jeremy Brooks, Benjamin Clarke, Sue Gill, Michael Johnson, James Leach, Debbie Oades, Christoph Lindner, Sharon Roberts, Jill Roth, Peter Simmons, Martin Williams.

House of Laity:

Margaret Carey, , Zoe Clark, Natasha Edwards, Peter Flory, Frances Hall, Ian Hamilton, Carol Hornsby, Ann Ralph, Peter Simmonds, Susan Shyvers, Joan Wainman, Eddie Weiss.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Visitors: Joan Toye, Marcus Lee

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Rev'd Canon Tim Harper (Co Area Dean) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm Rev'd Canon Tim Harper welcomed the Synod, followed by prayers and worship, led by Rev'd Mike Bisset.

- 2) Apologies –taken from the attendance sheet.
- 3) Minutes of the meeting held 18th June 2019 were agreed.
- 4) Matters Arising: Safeguarding At the previous meeting the Deanery Synod was asked to take a vote re a new Diocesan Safeguarding policy. Clarification was provided in that there is an existing Diocesan Safeguarding Policy , but what was new was a model Parish Safeguarding Policy. Also the main C of E guidance on Safeguarding had been updated. Copies of all of the relevant documents were placed prior to the meeting on the Deanery Website. It is unclear if the Deanery requires a Safeguarding Policy. All churches are covered by the two policies, and all churches websites, bar one, has the required link to Safeguarding. The Synod agreed this.

There is a Diocesan Development Fund available of £2500, details of which can be found on the Diocesan website.

Area Deans Notes: Rev'd Simon Cansdale is still with Great Chesham – his last service is 29th September.

Confirmation Service at St. Giles, Chalfont St. Giles on 22nd September.

- 5) Chaplaincy and the Church School Relationship Rev'd Chris Kerr was introduced – he is the Chaplaincy Advisor to the Diocese of Oxford, on a contract with a further 3 years to run. His current role is to build bridges between the church and schools. He gave some startling statistics: 1 in 4 girls aged 14 self-harm; 1 in 10 children aged 5 -16 years have a mental health disorder and this doubles in the age group 16-25 years. He went on to say that it is very hard to be a religious Christian teenager, and gave a finding that of a class of 10 Sunday school children, only 3 remained. The current Deanery project was in Secondary schools.

There are 10 Church Secondary Schools and 3 quotes from visiting these: 1. 'There is an epidemic of anxiety in our school'. 2. 'It's hard to be a Christian at this school'. 3. 'It's hard being a teenager'. It is very difficult to connect with teenagers, but essential. Schools are reaching out and setting up as much chaplaincy time as possible. All 10 church Secondary schools are engaging in chaplaincy at some level. Primary Schools are well provided for, and are already taking up some of Oxford Contemplative Toolkit which takes about 5 minutes. Many primary schools take part in Open the Book or similar outreach.

The handout for the meeting is on the Deanery website.

A Q & A Session took place. Thank you to Rev'd Kerr from the Synod

Rev'd Tina Molyneaux – Personal Discipleship Plan. Tina is an Associate priest in a parish outside Maidenhead, and is on a contract to support Common Vision, and opened her talk with 'I am confident and equipped to live out my faith Monday – Saturday'. 59% stated that their church does not equip people well for life in today's world at home or work or elsewhere. Asked what would you want: responses were more help to identify gift or vocation, encouragement, more opportunities, accessible training. The first pilot of the Personal Discipleship Plan had fantastic results and mentors have been trained to go out into other churches. It was found that as people grow they will do more. There are 33 mentors in the Wycombe Deanery and over 200 people have had training – it was found that many had said that this was the first time someone has had a conversation about them. Of those who have taken part 100% have said that they feel encouraged.

The handout for the meeting is on the Deanery website.

A Q & A took place. Thank you to Rev'd Molyneaux from the Synod.

- 6) Archdeaconry Day: Mr Lawrence Tebboth advised that this took place on 14th September. There is a lot going on in the Diocese, as shown by the speakers tonight. Encouragement from Bishop Steven to focus on what you are doing well, and to expand on it. There is a Parish Planning Tool available on the Diocesan website to aid parishes to work together more, encourage people to reach out eg Lighthouse. There are a number of events planned; the closest to us is on 4th November at Beaconsfield.

Reiteration of the Parish Development Plan – the Diocese are looking for small projects with funding of up to £2500 – any parish can apply. There will be an update at the next Synod meeting.

- 7) Finance: if any parish wants to put in a bid for the Parish Development Fund, the deadline is 30th September. The next deadline will be the end of January 2020.
- 8) AOB: This is the first meeting with a slightly earlier start time, which we will be continuing with. Please let the Secretary know if you are not happy about this.

Mr Stephen Fitzjohn (Amersham with Coleshill) said that he hasn't received any feedback from the Synod at all about Helping Hands, but believes that there is a place for this in the locality. It was agreed that the Secretary would reissue the documentation.

Thanks were given to St. Margaret's Church for hosting this Synod meeting and for the fantastic cakes and refreshments.

Rev'd Cassa Messervy closed the meeting with prayer and the Grace at 8.45pm