

AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held in St James, Centre, Gerrards Cross on 25th November 2021 commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy:

Matt Beeby, Mike Bisset, Sue Gill, Paul Henderson, Brian Ludlow, Peggy Ludlow (CoAd), Daf Meirion-Jones, Jeremy Moody, Sharon Roberts, Graham Summers, Margot Suter, Jenny Tebboth.

House of Laity:

Andrew Bell, Margaret Carey, Michal Carmody, David Carter, Hazel Chow, Zoe Clark, Steve Cooper, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Nigel Edward-Few, Roger Edwards, Chris Embleton-Smith, Peter Flory, Ann Geary, Margaret Gingell, Frances Hall, Jacquie Hardman, Michael Hardman, Jackie Lambert, Mary Lee, Ian Mitton, Derek Portwood, Hilary Povey, Jacqueline Rose, Stephanie Summerell, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Cobus Van der Walt, Mary Webster, Eddie Weiss.

In Attendance

Steve & Lindsey Poulson.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Ruth Atkinson, Tim Barnard, Debbie Oades.

House of Laity:

Sarah Ainsworth-Coles, Roy Evans, Cathy Franklin, Francesca Hall-Drinkwater, Ian Hamilton, Carol Hornsby, Dave Kidner, Hazel Miller, Andrew Patterson.

Secretary: Dorothy Potter

Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) was Chairman.

- 1) At 8pm the meeting began with the Chairman welcoming the Synod, and thanked St James for the use of the building and their hospitality. Mr Ian Mitton led the worship singing and Rev'd Daf Meirion-Jones led the opening prayers with Advent Sunday as the inspiration.
- 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.
There were no matters arising.
- 5) Mission and Pastoral Committee. All members of the Synod were contacted and asked if they would like to join this committee. Rev'd Peggy Ludlow (Area Dean) and Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) are ex-officio; those willing to stand are: Rev'd Brian Ludlow, Rev'd Debbie Oades, Mrs Jacqui Hardman, Mrs Stephanie Summerell, Mr David Carter, Mr Peter Flory. There were no objections, and all duly elected. Thanks were expressed to Rev'd Mike Bisset who had done sterling work for the last 4 years.
- 6) Finance. Mrs Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer) had a set of slides (now on the Deanery website) to show how the Share Allocation was calculated and the Parish Share for each parish determined. The allocations were broadly the same for 2021, but this had been adapted. There were no questions regarding calculation. Mr Nigel Edward-Few asked if all Deaneries calculated the share in this way – Mrs Dziegiel replied that they all do different things. Mrs Dziegiel asked how many parishes did not use the Parish Giving Scheme, which she endorses, and urged those parishes still not signed up, to do so. Mrs Dziegiel was thanked for all her hard work.
- 7) Area Dean's Notes: There are a high number of vacancies within the Deanery, but three appointments have been made: Rev'd Dan Beasley at Chalfont St Giles, Rev'd David Hyndman at the Hope Church in Chesham and Rev'd Darren Dalton, at Christ Church Chesham and St. Georges Church, Tylers Hill.

Bishop Steven is coming to visit Amersham Deanery on 5th May 2022, and participation from all parishes is requested.

- 8) Steve and Lindsey Poulson: We are fortunate that Steve and Lindsey Poulson are in the country and able to come and speak to the Deanery meeting. Steve outlined the work they are doing with young people; 53 children are now in school of which 30% have need of a psychologist, and 28 have weekly mentorship. 25 are young single mothers. The programme feeds them three times a week. Steve and Lindsey looked at one family in particular, the Garay family, and how they have progressed from no hope to having steady work.

The presentation materials are on the Deanery Website.

Questions asked.

- How did the mother bring up four children? She washed clothes; made and sold tortillas on the roadside. The children were aided by Street Kids Direct.

- What is the education system? This is only compulsory to aged 11 years (Year 6), after that parents have to pay for their children's education. There are no resources in Secondary School, and teachers have to 'pass' the children whether they have succeeded or not.
- How easy was it to learn Spanish? Total immersion!

What are your needs and what can we pray for?

- Steve asked to pray for the upcoming Honduras Presidential election and results. A curfew is likely.
- Continue to pray for the Garay Family.
- Pray for a new premises for Proyecto Alas.

Steve and Lindsey are returning to Honduras on 16th January 2022.

Mr Lawrence Tebboth thanked Steve and Lindsey, and said that support for them would continue from the Deanery.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.30pm.