

## READING DEANERY SYNOD

### Minutes of the 9th meeting of the 2011 - 2014 Synod. Held at Trinity Church, Earley on Monday 26th November 2012 at 20.10 hours

#### Present:

Clergy	Lay members	Apologies
The Revd Canon B Shenton (Chair)	Mr Peter Jeal (Chair)	Ms Jane Lewis
The Revd Pads Dolphin	Mr Eric Anderson	Mrs Pat Nash
The Revd Margaret Dimmick	Mr Ian Bate	Mr David Paine
The Revd John Rogers	Mr Derek Benham	Mrs Janet Potter
The Revd Derek Spears	Mr Mark Burton	Mr David Potter
The Revd Kath Spence	Mr David Cox	Mr Les Pullen
The Revd Dan Tyndall	Mr Robert Dimmick	Mr Chris Rimmer
	Mrs Mary Ellaby	Mrs Jenny Searle
	Mr David Fulford	Mr Gordon Summers
	Mr John Goddard	Mrs Ann Taylor
	Mr Jim Johnson	Ms Nicki Tinniswood
		Miss Joan Walker
		Dr Elaine Watts
		Mr Tony White
		Mr Nicholas White
		Ms Gillian Wilson
		Mr Brian Wynn
		The Revd Graeme Fancourt
		The Revd Nick Jackson
		The Revd Chris Leslie
		The Revd Sean Riordan
		The Revd Jon Salmon
		The Revd Stanton Saringer
		The Revd Rachel Wadey
		Mrs Anne Bingham
		Mrs Rosemary Cooper
		Mr Michael Charles
		Mr Mike Eggleton
		Dr Alison Johnston
		Mrs Sonia Higgs
		Dr John Ledger
		Mrs Dru Maynard
		Dr Sally-Ann McDowell
		Prof John Missenden
		Mrs Marian Pitman
		Mr Peter Politzer
		Dr Tony Pretlove
		Mrs J Raison
		Mr Peter Shirley-Quirk
		Dr Andrew Taylor
		Ms Helen Terry
		Mrs Sue Varley

#### Welcome:

Mr Peter Jeal welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### Opening Prayers:

The Revd. Kath Spence led a short opening worship with Guitar accompaniment

#### Minutes of the last Synod:

Minutes of the Synod held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012, previously circulated were agreed with the following amendments having been received and circulated on the agenda for the November meeting:

- a) Under Parish Share 2013:-a) amend 1<sup>st</sup> Para line 5 to read 'at Waddesdon is on 6th Oct' not as written 'at Waddesdon is on 2nd Oct'
- b) insert new first sentence for 2<sup>nd</sup> para to read 'The Revd John Rogers pointed out that the figure for St. Michael's Tilehurst was incorrect. This had previously been mentioned to Peter who confirmed that the 2013 should be £75041'

#### Matters Arising:

None.

#### Notices:

- a) **Area Dean** – none.
- b) **Lay Chair** – on behalf of Trinity Church announced Carol Singing at the adjacent Asda supermarket on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30 to 8.30pm.

Peter then clarified the vote taken at General Synod regarding Women Bishops as, in many instances, the media reports had failed to explain what this vote was really about. It was not whether or not the Church of England should have women as Bishops but it concerned the provision for churches who felt unable to accept women as ministers in their churches. This was never going to be an easy decision as if the vote had been in the affirmative for the motion as it stood other churches had expressed that they would withdraw from the Church of England.

**Treasurer** – None

### **Presentation by the Partners in World Mission Council of the Oxford Diocese. (PiWM)**

Joan Walker welcomed the speakers and introduced them as Maranda St John Nicholle who had only recently handed over chair of PiWM to Bishop Andrew and had a wide knowledge and experience of the workings of PiWM. The Revd Gill Lovell, whom some of you may know is Rector at Burghfield and had a great interest and enthusiasm for the Diocesan Link in Kimberley and Kuruman in South Africa, and the Revd Tony Dickinson who is the European Representative and had been a key figure in establishing the Diocesan Link in Vaxjo, Sweden.

Maranda began by saying that she is aware of ongoing work in world mission within this Deanery by several churches but then showed photos of two churches one mile apart whose congregations fail to communicate which is a common but sad situation when we are all the body of Christ. On entering a retreat house in Johannesburg she had immediately felt the power of prayer and there are many other such places around the world. Worship from such places can be shared and this is being demonstrated by the Diocesan most recent link in Nandyal, India where they can teach us about evangelism and in turn are keen to know about our church lifestyles. An example of Christians caring for each other is the Valley of Hope Charity based in the Parish of Mothibstad on the edge of the Kalahari in South Africa, which is linked with Icknield and who distribute food parcels to those who are affected by HIV / AIDS and train the local people in establishing gardens to produce their own crops.

Maranda then went on to explain how PiWM can help churches in any discussions related to establishing links and is deciding what the aims of each link will be, from prayer support, visits, practical assistance to financial support. Sometimes it is a case of linking parishes already engaged in world mission working with links but are unaware of each others work.

The structure of the PiWM Council of elected and co-opted members and mission agency members means that there is a wide breadth of knowledge and experience available. Tearfund, for example, are well experienced in helping churches embrace the world church in our midst.

Gill shared her passion for Kimberley and Kuruman where she had spent a month in 2011 as an exchange with the Revd Thomas Murino. Thomas had been appointed as Director of Ordinands but needed to learn about his new role and Gill was pleased to have experience of a predominantly coloured church with one or two blacks and no whites. The Parish of All Saints made Gill very welcome. She had been moved by the high levels of homelessness and alcohol and substance abuse in the area where 70% of the parents where the children were at school were unemployed.

Two projects in this area seek to improve life for the people, the first, 'Hope for the Living' works with HIV / AIDS affected people who live in tin shacks to develop gardens to produce their own fruit and vegetables thereby ensuring a better diet which in turn helps the absorption of medication. The team working in this project had not received payment for 3-4 months but still kept going.

The second project feeds 200 plus children each week. The children all get one meal at school but this project ensures a second meal. The Oxford Diocese funding provides this for one day a week and Gill's parish together with another parish are seeking to provide the £2000 a year needed to fund a second day of providing this meal.

The presentation by Tony was very different in that the link with Växjö came about through the Porvoo agreement, this is with the Baltic and Nordic Lutheran churches, except Latvia. The region is a similar one to the Oxford Diocese in that it covers three areas as does the Oxford Diocese albeit on a far larger scale. Each parish is covered by two or even three priests with curates, lay preachers and usually a paid Youth worker. Tony talked through each section of the agreement made in 2003 beginning with prayer and ending with

finance. To date various celebrations have been shared, including the celebration of St Sigfrid on 15<sup>th</sup> February each year as he is credited with being the founder of the church in Sweden. The church in Växjö was particularly impressed with Living Faith and has translated it into Swedish (with permission) for their own purposes of mission.

Maranda then briefly outlined the very different and most recent link with Nandyal where relationships are building and this Diocese is assisting in education programmes and in exchange we are learning more about evangelism.

For each speaker there were several questions and Synod members were encouraged to communicate with any of the speakers direct or through Joan as to what their parishes are doing and links they have or to make enquiries as to establishing a link.

Maranda then closed the meeting in prayer.

**Vote of Thanks**

The Revd Canon Brian Shenton gave a vote of thanks to the three speakers

**Date of Next Meeting:**

No date has yet been arranged but will be circulated as soon as possible.

Signed  
(chair)

Date

DRAFT