

READING DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the 8th meeting of the 2011 - 2014 Synod.

Held in the Morlais Room of St Michael's Church Tilehurst, on Tuesday 11th September 2012
at 20.00 hours

Present:

Clergy	Lay members	Apologies	
The Revd Canon B Shenton (Chair)	Mr Peter Jeal (Chair)	Dr Diana Matthewa	The Revd Pads Dolphin
The Revd Adam Carlill	Mr Eric Anderson	Mrs Dru Maynard	The Revd Peter Grosse
The Revd Derek Chandler	Mrs Anne Bingham	Prof John Missenden	The Revd Eddie Orme
The Revd Nicholas Chee saman	Mr Derek Benham	Mrs Pat Nash	The Revd Eddie Marquez
The Revd Margaret Dimmick	Mrs Patricia Brazil	Mr David Paine	The Revd Jon Salmon
The Revd Graeme Fancourt	Mr Mark Burton	Mrs Janet Potter	The Revd Stanton Saringer
Fr David Harris	Mrs Rosemary Cooper	Mr David Potter	The Revd Jeremy Tear
The Revd Dan Heywood	Mr Michael Charles	Dr Tony Pretlove	The Revd Dan Tyndall
The Revd Nick Jackson	Mr Robert Dimmick	Mr Les Pullen	The Revd Neil Warwick
The Revd Chris Leslie	Mr Mike Eggleton	Mr Chris Rimmer	The Revd Canon Jonathan Willmot
The Revd Sean Riordan	Mrs Mary Ellaby	Mr Peter Shirley-Quirk	
The Revd John Rogers	Mr David Fulford	Mr Stephen Slack	Mr Tony Bartlett
The Revd Chris Russell	Mr Trevor Greaves	Mrs May Smith	Mr David Cox
The Revd David Smith	Mr Philip Giddings	Dr Andrew Taylor	Mr John Goddard
The Revd Derek Spears	Mrs Margaret Jeal	Ms Nicki Tinniswood	Mr Mark Hinckley
	Mr Jim Johnson	Mrs Sue Varley	Ms Jane Lewis
	Dr Alison Johnston	Miss Joan Walker	Dr Sally-Ann McDowell
	Mrs Sheila Jordan	Dr Elaine Watts	Mrs Marian Pitman
	Mr Alfred Kolawole	Mr Nicholas White	Mr Peter Politzer
Student Observer	Dr John Ledger	Mr Tony White	Mrs Jenny Searle
Kyle		Observer	Mr Gordon Summers
Ben		Ms D Johnson-Wait	Ms Gillian Wilson
			Mr Brian Wynn

Welcome:

The Revd Canon Brian Shenton welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special thank you to St Michael's for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

Opening Prayers:

The Revd. John Rogers led the opening prayers following a reading from Acts of the Apostles.

Minutes of the last Synod:

Minutes of the Synod held on 26th June 2012, previously circulated were agreed. The following amendments having been received Dr Stephen Slack to read Mr Stephen Slack and Mrs May Smith having sent apologies.

Matters Arising:

None.

Notices:

- a) **Area Dean** – Asked the meeting to remember The Revd Canon Jonathan Willmot and his wife Sue in prayers as they had both been unwell recently.
- b) **Lay Chair** – A reminder to everyone to place their attendance slips in the basket by the door.
- Welcomed the Revd Nick Jackson to his first Reading Deanery Synod Meeting since taking up his position as Vicar of Southlake St James, incorporating Emmanuel (conventional district)

The Revd Sean Riordan responded to the request to clarify 'conventional district' as a recognised geographical area within another parish and one which looked after its own affairs.

c) **Treasurer** – None

Provisional Deanery Mission and Action Plan

Peter Jeal explained that the above Plan was expected in full to be with the Diocese by mid September but negotiations with the Archdeacon resulted in an agreement for an interim plan at this stage with the full plan submitted in good time for the January Archdeaconry meeting.

Peter then highlighted points in the draft plan as circulated. Initially the plan would describe the Deanery, including its uniqueness in being the smallest geographically but the largest in the country numerically with only one rural area. The vision of the Deanery and its areas would include the current position of the churches and their future hopes and aspirations. The long term plan would be how the church should develop. The content of the plan would be a living document reviewed annually and revised as appropriate, reflecting the working for God in all areas.

In considering the Minster Church of St Mary the Pastoral Committee were proposing that this should be the seat of the Area Dean. The Minster is a very small Parish but caters but a large number of Civic events and is always first to be considered by the civic authorities for events. Should the Area Dean be in another parish this would likely cause problems as 50% or more of the Revd Canon Brian Shenton's time is spent on Area Dean's duties which would be detrimental to parish work in a larger parish.

The Pastoral Committee also recommends that the Minster, whilst maintaining its Saxon origins, now becomes a Modern Minster similar to that of others such as Halifax and Doncaster. This would remove it from parish status and give it a mission purpose across the Deanery/Archdeaconry.

The Diocese guidelines for a viable parish are an electoral roll of at least 150 plus a minimum of £50,000 contribution to the Parish Share. Parishes which do not meet this criteria guideline need to provide evidence as to why they are needed. Two examples were given, one of St Matthew's which had fallen into the non-viable category but was needed to serve a population of around 16,000 and with assistance of members of Greyfriars church was being re-generated. The second being St Agnes which was in long standing, nationally recognized, urban priority area.

Finally the plan would have an appendix of the updated Deanery Parish information booklet.

Questions and comments raised were:

- of the Area Dean being 'permanent' at the Minster. This being at the discretion of the Bishop.
- not to force churches to join together as clusters, as this had been a critical failure in the Durham area.
- not to see this as an audit but a current review leading to growth and action.
- Fresh expression posts were explained by the Revd Chris Russell as a re-branding also incorporating new initiatives, different ways of reaching people e.g. coffee groups, golfing groups leading on to spiritual matters.
- St John, Woodley soon to hold a Safeguarding Course (previously known as Child Protection).

Requirements on Parish Mission and Action Plans

Many parishes had not been aware of the need to produce these hence the Deanery was proposing to hold a training session to aid parishes in preparing them. Some parishes elsewhere in the country were much further advanced so recommended examples could be shared. Catherine Morris was to be invited to assist in this too. As with the Deanery Plan it takes time to write such a plan which is a living document requiring annual review and amendment.

Approval of Parish Share 2013

Peter Jeal explained how the Share was calculated and the revised presentation paper as circulated to meet parish requests for clarity and Emmanuel becoming a Conventional District within St James Parish. Encouragement was given for as many as possible to attend the Diocesan Finance Consultation meetings, the local one for Berkshire to be held at Ranelagh School, Bracknell on 29th September (others in Oxford on 22nd September or at Waddesdon on 2nd October) Full details are on the Diocesan Website under finance, consultation. It is important for treasurers, churchwardens and clergy to attend.

St John, Woodley contested the figure quoted for their share which Peter agreed to look into. Greyfriars representative expressed the significant burden on larger churches. Peter explained the triennial review of the formula, relating to the importance of attending the Financial Consultation this year when this was discussed. Initially it was then felt that the total paper could not be agreed in the light of the St John query. Peter reassured the meeting that other figures would not change as monies from St Mary's and St Laurence charities would be used for any shortfall, then with the suggestion from Professor John Missenden that the clause 'subject to the checking of St John, Woodley as complying with criteria' be added to the approval and Mr David Paine 'that the figures quoted for other churches would not change' a vote was taken with "approval of the proposed parish share for 2013, subject to the checking of St John, Woodley as complying with criteria, and figures quoted for other churches would not change" being passed by a majority with 1 against and 11 abstentions.

Permission to Officiate (PTO) priests representation on Deanery Synod

This Deanery has always welcomed retired clergy and Non-stipendiary clergy to meetings. To comply with rules voting papers would be sent to these clergy next year as not all are entitled to vote should a vote be taken. The allocation is for one voting member per every ten or part thereof within these categories. .
(Clarification of PTO post meeting is that they hold Bishop's Permission to Officiate – in other words any 'active retired' clergy (whether before retirement they were paid incumbents, non-stipendiary, hospital chaplains or whatever), but those who are fully retired and no longer hold PTO cannot).

Pastoral Committee Areas and Representation

Peter requested parishes to notify Joan, as Secretary, as to their natural partners within Pastoral areas. (that is Anglican churches)

Representatives of Deanery Synod Elected to Diocesan Synod

As circulated these are:

- Clergy - The Revd Canon J A de B Willmot, The Revd C Leslie, The Revd A Carlill, The Revd D Spears, The Revd N Cheeseman with one vacancy
- Laity - Mr Peter Jeal, Mr John Missenden, Miss Joan Walker, with three vacancies

In response to a question by Mr Robert Dimmick further nominations to fill vacancies would be considered at Deanery Standing Committee before submission to the Diocese.

Date of Next Meeting:

Awaiting dates in November of The Revd Michael Beasley's availability and would be circulated as soon as known

Closing Prayers

Ahead of prayers which were led by the Revd Canon Brian Shenton two students were recognised as being present and welcomed to the meeting, Kyle studying at St Stephen's Oxford and Ben studying at Wycliffe.

Signed
(chair)

Date