

READING DEANERY SYNOD

Subject to Approval

Minutes of the 10th meeting of the 2011 - 2014 Synod.
Held at All Saints Church Hall on Tuesday 25th June 2013 at 20.00 hours

Present:

Clergy	Lay members	Apologies	
The Revd Derek Chandler	Mr Peter Jeal (Chair)	Dr Christopher Mott	The Revd Canon B Shenton (Chair)
The Revd Nicholas Cheeseman	Mr Eric Anderson	Mrs Sue Mott	The Revd Nick Jackson
The Revd Margaret Dimmick	Mr Tony Bartlett	Mr David Paine	The Revd Eddie Marquez
The Revd Pads Dolphin	Mr Ian Bate	Mrs Pamela Patman	The Revd Eddie Orme
The Revd Dan Heyward	Mr Derek Benham	Mrs Terry Pitt	The Revd John Rogers
The Revd Nigel Jones	Mrs Anne Bingham	Mr David Potter	
The Revd Chris Leslie	Mr Mark Burton	Mrs Janet Potter	
The Revd Graham Lunn	Mr Michael Charles	Dr Tony Pretlove	
The Revd Sean Riordan	Mrs Rosemary Cooper	Mr Chris Rimmer	
The Revd Jon Salmon	Mr David Cox	Mrs Jenny Searle	
The Revd Jeremy Tear	Mr Ken Deane	Mr Hugh Simpson	Mrs Patricia Brazill
The Revd Neil Warwick	Mr Robert Dimmick	Mr Peter Shirley-Quirk	Dr Sally-Ann McDowell
	Mrs Mary Ellaby	Mrs May Smith	Mrs Ruth Farrel-Hyder
	Mr David Fulford	Dr Andrew Taylor	Mrs Sonia Higgs
	Mrs Margaret Jeal	Ms Nicki Tinniswood	Dr Alison Johnston
	Mr Jim Johnson	Mr Bill Watts	Dr John Ledger
	Mrs Sheila Jordan	Dr Elaine Watts	Dr Diana Matthews
	Mr Alfred Kolawole	Miss Joan Walker	Mrs Marian Pitman
	Mrs Margaret Lowe	Mr Simon Walker	Mr Kim Slater
	Mrs Dru Maynard	Mrs Gillian Wilson	Mr Gordon Summers
	Prof John Missenden	Mr Anthony White	Mr Brian Wynn

Welcome:

Mr Peter Jeal welcomed everyone to the meeting, and tendered apologies on behalf on the Revd Canon Brian Shenton who had been called to be with his seriously ill mother.

Opening Prayers:

The Revd. Nicholas Cheeseman led opening prayers.

Minutes of the last Synod:

Minutes of the Synod held on 26th November 2012, previously circulated were agreed with the following amendments having been received and circulated on the agenda for the June 2013 meeting:

- Amend The Revd Derek Spears from Present to Apologies received.
- Apologies sent: The Revd. Nick Jackson; The Revd. Jeremy Tear;
- Presentation of the Reading Deanery Mission and Ministry Plan: page 4 point 2 to read:
'If Christ Church is joined with St Giles and St Luke with St Bartholomew for administrative purposes the geography is wrong as Christchurch is South Reading'

Matters Arising: - none.

Notices:

- Area Dean** – none.
- Lay Chair** – Mr Peter Jeal reported with regret that the Deanery will be unable to reach its target of Parish share payments for this year to enable the Deanery to achieve as rebate as four churches are experiencing severe unanticipated financial problems. The predicted shortfall is in the region of £60,000 - £70,000 hence trying to pay this would negate the amount received in rebate.

c) **Treasurer** – none

d) **Secretary** – none

Introduction / presentation of the New Parish Share Scheme 2014

Joan Walker outlined the differences between how the current system and the New Parish scheme which will come into effect in 2014. A leaflet produced by the diocese has been circulated in quantity to all churches to enable all parishioners to have some understanding of this. Joan informed the Synod that a meeting with Parish Treasurers to explain the new scheme had resulted in a recommendation that the current formula used by the Deanery should be applied for 2014 rather than try to apply a new formula. Peter Jeal responded to a number of questions from Synod members following which Synod agreed to apply the current formula (as agreed at the start of the 2011 – 2014 Synod) for 2014 but requested that new formula calculations comparisons for consideration be produced preferably by the September Synod meeting thus giving time for debate throughout the Deanery and which would then enable the first meeting of the new 2014 – 2017 Synod to agree the formula to be used for the period of that Synod. It was noted that it may not be possible to produce complete statistically applied data by this stage.

Reading Deanery Mission and Ministry Plan:

This item was included at Synod's request as the Ministry and Action Plan presented at the March meeting of Synod could not be agreed prior to it being submitted to the Archdeaconry Pastoral Committee.

Comments from Synod members included the fact that:

this was a live document and therefore required to be regularly reviewed and amended.

details from parish ministry and action plans require to be incorporated, which Peter Jeal agreed

parish plans could form appendices

the Deanery Ministry and Action plan should go back to parishes for comment

parish Ministry and Action plans tend to concentrate on serving the local community

the Deanery values, principles and broader aspects are a plus point and referral of the document back to the Pastoral Committee to develop and enliven it further would be a way forward.

it was noted that the Pastoral committee was able to co-opt persons with specific expertise should this be required

better publicity and examples of working together and across other faiths in areas of common ground should be incorporated

Synod members did not know what discussions took place at the Pastoral Committee and requested feedback (it was pointed out that some discussions were of a sensitive nature and would therefore not be reported back)

Synod members did not know who their representatives on the Pastoral Committee are – it was agreed for a list to names to be circulated

events / activities happening in parishes need to be widely circulated around the Deanery to enable cohesiveness

Ministry and Action plans should be part of each parishes Annual Parochial Church meeting report

it was noted that Bishop Andrew is shortly meeting with all clergy of the Reading Deanery together with the Lay Chair which may provide more information relating to the Deanery Ministry and Action Plan

The Revd. Nicholas Cheeseman proposed, seconded by the Revd Neil Warwick

That parishes prepare their Ministry and Action Plans over a time scale not exceeding two years in parallel with the Deanery as a whole in relationship to the communities we all serve and the Deanery Pastoral Committee work on the Deanery Plan over a one year time scale.

Agreed unanimously

It was further agreed to write to parishes asking for submission of their Ministry and Action Plans

Concern was raised that further detail of St Mary's becoming a Modern Minster had not been given as this would mean losing a Parochial Church Council with an ancient history and taking an historic parish out of existence. It was felt that this change was really experimental as details of Modern Ministers operating

effectively as such were not clearly identified on a Google computer search. Peter Jeal clarified that this change was not within the remit of the Deanery; that there were several Modern Minsters working as such as evidenced by the Revd Brian Shenton in his research; that this suggested change was the prerogative of the Rector in consultation with the Bishops of Reading and Oxford in taking into consideration meeting the needs of the parishioners and town.

Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 23rd September 2013 at St Barnabas, Emmer Green

Thursday 28th November 2013 at st Nicolas, Earley

Signed
(chair)

Date

DRAFT