

## READING DEANERY SYNOD

### Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 – 2011 Synod. Held at The Royal Berkshire Hospital on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**09/1** 13 members of the House of Clergy and 41 members of the House of Laity signified their attendance. 7 apologies for absence had been received from the House of Clergy and 13 from the House of Laity.

**09/2 Welcome and opening prayers:** Peter Jeal, Lay Chairman welcomed all present and thanked Professor Ann Sheen, Chief Executive of the hospital and her staff for their hospitality. Opening prayers were led by the Hospital Chaplain the Revd Michael Sserumkuma.

**09/3 Presentation by Professor Ann Sheen on the NHS with especial reference to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.**

Ann started by saying that the Royal Berkshire Hospital was one of the five biggest Fund Trusts in the UK, having an annual budget of £300 million and employing 2,400 staff. The hospital is one of the cleanest in the country and the occurrence of MRSA cases over the last two years was 8. Patient care is at the centre of all their work and the time from referral from GP to cure is within 18 weeks. Waiting time in A & E is less than 4 hours. She paid tribute to the Chaplain and his staff and said due consideration was paid to those patients of other religions. She appreciated all voluntary support and was pleased for the opportunity to speak to synod.

**09/4 Coping with members of congregations with mental health problems – presented by Dr Mark Alsopp Consultant Psychologist and Acting Medical Director.**

Mark said that violent mental health problems are more frequent in urban rather than rural areas, and described some problematic situations. In many cases, deciding what to do was difficult, time was needed to evaluate the situation and this was not always possible. He considered that communicating and listening in a calm, clear, confident and polite manner would be helpful, also to encourage the sufferer to seek help might assist. To know how to deal with the situation appropriately and not to escalate matters was important.

An in-depth question and answer session then followed and, in conclusion, Brian thanked Ann and Mark for their very interesting and helpful presentations.

**09/5 Presentation of the Deanery accounts for 2006 and 2007.** John Scoble, the outgoing treasurer explained the accounts. These were accepted by synod and when put formally to a vote were carried nem connote Area Dean, The Rev Canon Brian Shenton, on behalf of synod, gave John a small token of our appreciation.

**09/6 Synod to note acceptance of the 2009 Parish Share.** Peter explained the workings of the Parish Share committee and said a meeting is scheduled for later this year when full discussion will take place.

**09/7 Minutes of Synod** held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**09/8 Matters arising - none**

**09/9 Notices**

- a) **Area Dean** – David Ellis, Priest in Charge to be installed in Holy Trinity Church, Oxford Road on 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.30pm

- b) Lay Chairman** –Living Faith in the Community – further details of this will be presented formally to the Diocesan Synod in June and cascaded to parishes. Peter outlined plans for the June synod to be held at Earley St Nicolas and members were invited to organise displays showing what their parishes are doing in the Deanery, such displays being located in the church. Guests will be most welcome and as a BBQ, to include vegetarian dishes, is envisaged, knowledge of numbers was desirable. Peter asked for members with culinary skills to come along and help.

Peter said copies of the Overview of the Diocesan Synod held 7<sup>th</sup> March, compiled by Joan Walker, were available at the door. John Missenden (Greyfriars) explained the thinking behind his question regarding change of name of the Diocese.

- c) Treasurer** - nil

**09/10 Any other urgent business** – Nil.

**09/11 The Revd Canon Brian Shenton**, in his closing remarks, mentioned that in ‘The Door’, little news came from Reading and he wondered if members would care to submit interesting items. He then closed synod with the Blessing.

The next Synod is arranged for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Earley St Nicolas. Other synod dates – 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> November.