

Minutes of Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod 6 November 2017

Present: Canon Jo Loveridge, Revd Mark Dunston, Revd Ysmena Pentelow, Revd John Hookway, Revd Alan Stewart, Revd Nick Sharp, Revd Robert Thompson.

Sue Rogers (St Mary's, Essendon), Mike West (St Mary's, Ware), David Scott (St John the Baptist, Widford), Judith Scott (Visitor) (St John the Baptist, Widford), Anne Mitcheson (St Mary's, Essendon), Ian Bailey (St Andrews', Little Berkhamsted), Gillian Maxwell (St Andrews, Hertford), Steve Perkins (Holy Trinity Bengoe), Ros Squires (Holy Trinity Bengoe), Lyn Paddon (Gt Amwell with St Margarets), Trevor Paddon (Gt Amwell with St Margarets), Marilyn Britton (St Andrews, Stanstead Abbots), Michael Sutcliffe (St Mary, Ponsbourne), Colin Taylor (St Mary, Bayford and Brickendon), Diana Perkins (Christ Church Ware), Nerine Chalmers (All Saints, Hertford), Paul Goodman (Wareside Church – Holy Trinity), Lorraine Newman, Jill Whitley, David Whitley (St Dunstons, Hunsdon), Sandie Ash (St Andrew's, Little Berhamsted, Ian Aitken (St Andrew, Hertford), Janet Bird, Colin Bird (All Saints, Hertford), Kathleen Kirby, T. Goodman, Bob Ingram, Malcolm Furnwel Jones, Michael Waller, Derek Day (St Mary the Virgin, Ware), Viv Wade, Steve Wade (Christ Church, Ware), Robin Bishop (St Mary Hertingfordbury with St John), Nick Hoyle, Geoffrey Oates, K.J.Oates (All Saints, Hertford), Celia Higson (St Mary the Virgin, Ware), Dorothy Toyn (All Saints, Hertford), Dorothy Abel Smith (Bramfield), Pat Parker, Laura Randig (St Andrews). Revd Doug Loveridge (Deanery Secretary).

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Canon Jo Loveridge
2. Apologies: Richard McKay (Waterford), Lesley Atterwill (Stapleford), Peter Dane (Christ Church, Ware), Canon Pauline Higham, Rod Higham (Essendon), Catherine Archer (High Cross/ Thundridge), Tim Crowther (St Mary's, Ware), Diana Findlay (St John Widford).
3. Minutes of 12 July – agreed.
4. Matters Arising: The Revd Mark Dunstan confirmed that the Deanery MAP had been approved and accepted by the Diocese.
5. Correspondence and Notices: Confirmation 2018 will be at St Mary's, Ware on 21 February. Oberammergau 2020 was mentioned, any wishing to go should look to booking soon. There is a website for a travel company recommended by a Synod member www.tailored-travel.co.uk and if anyone wishes to join a group from our area please let the Secretary know.
Great Amwell with St Margarets urgently needs an External Examiner, an accountant who can check their finances, if anyone has any connections for this voluntary task.
6. No additional feedback from the Lay Leaders' meetings.
7. The Bishop presented First Steps in Evangelism by asking those present to consider who had been instrumental in encouraging them into faith and how we feel about that person now. The way most people come to faith tends not to be instant conversion but a process: Contacting – Nurture – Commitment – Growth which then becomes a circle of influencing others. The Bishop led a Bible Study of Acts 17, where St Paul meets people where they are, enters into debate and establishes a new Christian community. Like him, we cannot expect that all hearers will take an interest or become faithful, but – as with the Parable of the Sower – some proclamation will take root and multiply. Some people are simply not ready! Bp Michael encouraged us to think about the points of contact, nurture, commitment and growth in our parishes – many contributions were made and it was considered that we are good at making contacts in the community, but how do we spot seekers and do we offer pathways?
Canon Tim Lomax lead the final 15 minutes stating that we want traditional modes of church to flourish but we also need to engage with those for whom church is not “on their radar”.

We want to see Fresh Expression in every parish. He acknowledged that some people may never move from Fresh Expressions to traditional church; therefore the FXs need to begin their own rhythms of prayer and sacraments. Café groups and Youth Groups were specifically mentioned as FXs. The Diocese has been given £1.75 million to promote FX, much of which is going towards Conferences, etc. £250,000 has been allocated to parish situations. There is a dedicated website for further information

<http://freshexpressions.org.uk>

The Bishop concluded by saying that most people do want to know what your faith means to you, you should remember your own journey to faith. "If this is a pathway to a great treasure, are you thinking intentionally of putting that path in place?"

The Blessing was given by the Bishop

8. Next meeting: Tuesday 23 January at St Mary's Ware, including a session on Children's Work with Margaret Pritchard Houston, the Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler.