

Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod Standing and Pastoral Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 25th February 2019 at All Saints
Hertford, 2.00pm

1. **Welcome and Prayer**
2. **Apologies for Absence.** Nil.
3. **Minutes** of 26 November 2018
4. **Matters arising.**
5. **Fresh Expressions** - update. Jo asked whether we should have a list of Who's Doing What to note and share FXs to encourage one another. Janet Bird felt this would fit with the MAP exercise, knowing what is happening on a broad spectrum. Mark agreed to place a special page on the website: he will contact the clergy etc also it should go to Chapter. (Brief description, time/date, venue/ contact person.)
6. Review of previous Synod meeting (4 February 2019). Environmental Responsibility by Andy Lester. Pat said that it was excellent – others agreed. And excellent sound! Andy really made us think. And it gives us food for thought for Lent: Amanda Duncan and her husband are promoting initiatives in Lenten Living for sustainability. It has been sent to Synod members. CCW has an ARocha Silver award for sustainability, Jo asked if we can invite Paul Watson to tell us more: 10-15 minute slot, Catriona offered to invite. It was good that a number of non-members stayed on for the remainder of the meeting and to talk afterwards.
7. **Parish Share** – the current situation is that at present the latest figures are as at 31 December 2018. Information can be accessed on the St Albans Diocesan website <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/d08/>. Stanstead Abbots still owes from 2016 but currently has no Treasurer and no Gift Aid is happening. The Diocese has not been in touch. Concern was expressed that with no assistance from the Diocese's end, people are leaving and resigning. The Treasurer of HC/T stated that he has been ill. Mark will mention this at the Rural Chapter this week.
8. **Deanery Website** www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk Mark continues to maintain this.
9. **Deanery MAP** Environmental presentation was another MAP goal. We intend to ask parishes "What one thing from the three issues will they develop" by the end of April. This gives time for PCC discussion.
10. **Hartford Hundreds.** Interview Day 28 February. Vicarage issues remain.

11. **Little Amwell.** Currently being advertised.
12. **Agenda and arrangements for Synod meeting Tues 14 May 2019.** Confirm Topic (Ministry to the Elderly), speaker – Anne-Marie Parker suggested, Janet suggested the Revd Sue Stilwell re dementia, other issues.. good audio, visuals inc hymn books etc. Apologies from J. Bird. Lyn will enquire about St Andrews. Jo will ask AMP and Revd Alan Stewart.
13. **Future Deanery Synod meetings and potential topics.** A suggestion of a talk on Christian Stewardship and Fundraising for big projects. Grants etc were found by CCW, input was suggested (their Treasurer and/or a.n.other). Follow-up on Canon Andrew Holford's November address on Worship, as he suggested? *Jo mentioned, no response?* A Deanery summer evening for Treasurers, Wardens etc as a social event and sharing of vision was suggested, £13 per head at High Leigh – from Deanery funds.
Janet Bird mentioned that she is still awaiting details of Andy Lester's costs.
14. **SPC Committee members** – replacing Nick Sharp? Also Pauline Higham? Jenny Gray was suggested; Helen McCash was also to be approached for lay representation - is that needed?).
15. **Diocesan Synod Representation.**
16. <https://www.churchofengland.org/LLF> You may be interested to know of the General Synod's Living in Love and Faith, which is about Christian teaching and learning about human identity, sexuality and marriage.
17. Lambeth Conference 2020. Please see information below. Janet felt it would be fantastic. We can make people more aware of situations across the world. But how do we arrange this locally? JB suggested a Deanery service. Janet is happy to be Deanery Representative.
18. **Any other business** – please notify the Rural Dean or Secretary prior to the day of the meeting of any substantial items. Unconscious bias training is being promoted to be rolled out further. Lyn mentioned that her PCC is asking for a ruling permitting silk flowers in churchyards. Mark said the new Chancellor is looking at this. Also about increasing Wedding and Funeral Fees – Jo replied that this is a National matter – but some additions are possible, inc heating, vergers etc. And Nick Sharp had added a Voluntary Donation category on his fees list.
19. **Next SPC and Synod meetings – date, location.** (Next Synod 14 May, venue needed). SPC meeting on Monday 1 April
20. **Prayer.**

Lambeth Conference

A visit from at least 20 bishops and some of their spouses, from across the Anglican Communion, for a week prior to going to Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference.

In his letter of invitation to the Hospitality Initiative Bishop Alan asked of the invitees, "help to refresh our vision of our involvement in God's Mission in the diocese and review how our global connections help us in that calling".

Who might come?

Bishop Alan has first invited our Caribbean Link bishops, but we wanted to have bishops from as many other parts of the Communion as possible. So far, of these bishops, we have bishops from South Africa, Pakistan, Canada, Bangladesh and USA who have accepted the invitation to join us.

When will they come?

We have asked our guests to arrive in time for an informal reception at Abbey Gate House so they can meet one another on the evening of Wednesday July 15th, 2020 and they leave St Albans, with our own bishops, to travel to Canterbury a week later on Wednesday July 22nd

What will they do when in the diocese?

Our hope is that for the first few days – Thursday, Friday and Sunday – they will be available to participate in programmes organised on a Deanery basis enabling them to respond to the invitation to help us refresh our vision of our involvement in God's Mission.

There will be invitations to share in accommodation and transport, and a request for participation in planning.

More immediately, there is a request for a representative from each Deanery to the Information Evenings:

Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm at the Diocesan Offices, St Albans or Monday March 4th at 2.30pm at Church House, St. Mary's Church, Welwyn.