

# Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod

**Our vision:** to see flourishing, Christ-centred communities inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to discover God, grow in their relationship with Him and respond to His transforming love through serving others.

Minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
at Wareside C of E Primary School, 7.45pm

Chair . The Revd Mark Dunstan, Assistant Rural Dean

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Helen Harris (Holy Trinity, Hertford Heath), Sara McCrea (St John's, High Cross) and Maria Henriksson-Bell (St Andrews, Hertford) were welcomed as new members of the Synod. Katie Little of St Mary's Ware is joining the Diocesan Synod, and therefore us. Goodbye to the Revd Caroline Keighley, moving to Colney Heath in early July.
3. The Revd Alan Stewart spoke about the Dementia Service at St Andrew's, Hertford. Dementia is an umbrella term for many things, and many of us are touched by it in some way. The caring role can sometimes be exhausting, physically and spiritually. 3+ years ago St Andrews began a short Dementia-friendly service on Sunday afternoons, once a month. Always followed by Tea. They are still learning. They have connected with other support groups.  
Alan always introduces himself and the church, shares the date, He seeks to use words which are deeply ingrained. Happy Days are Here Again, a set of CDs with 100 old tunes is useful in the background. Hymns are sung using No Organist, No Problem: in lower keys! Visual stimulus is provided with props, objects.  
For worship, the Bible is brought up and placed on the lectern, with a short confession (BCP), talk, prayer, hymn, final collect/blessing. Candles are extinguished at the end. At Christmas they are joined by singing groups.  
Communion has not been tried, could be exclusive? Most Care Homes provide HC at some point. The services can be very funny, and a real joy. Pat commented that she has heard people suggest that the person with dementia is no longer their mother or father; we should continue to value and recognise who they truly are.

Canon Jo Loveridge spoke about Worshipping with Older People, including practical information and ideas from Anne-Marie Parker, a member of All Saints who embraces the concept of worship in the later years of life.

Jo asked : What is ~~an~~ Elderly+? It is in the eyes of the beholder/or the beheld. Some people with osteo-arthritis are in their teens. In Jesusqtime people often died in their 20s, so Jesus died oldõ . The Department of Work and Pensions says middle-age comes at 40 and Old age at 60! Some young people are already like old-age pensioners. As we age, minds do not make connections as they used to, hearing and sight, teeth, all deteriorate, aching limbs. We canq go on for ever.

Jo shared Ann-Marie Parker's thoughts on ageing: When does it start? When it is harder to get going, the dark is a challenge, and you are feeling vulnerable. Hearing loss . perhaps our Intercessors need to bear this in mind. Recently an elderly person came up to the chancel for HC with a stick and Order of Service in her hands . and with no-one to support her, she toppled on the steps. Thankfully no broken limbs.

Even hearing aids may not be good if there is background noise.

Energy levels decrease. Balance can be a challengeõ . Helping is valued, but not the patronising sort (and it is not always easy to ask).

There are more and more elderly people, do we make the most of them? Are they written off? They have a lot of wisdom. Can also help with younger people, eg instances of contact in Care Homes of young children and elderly people: they played and shared together.

Nobody really likes change, especially the elderly . communication, not surprises. Some new hymns are good, but not all new. Bring back Mattins?

Whatever age we are, we need each other.

We all want to hand on the legacy of the Gospel.

Are we aware how lonely people may be, especially the housebound . do we check, visit, phone, etc?

The young need the old, the old need the young.

We are all looking for hope, elderly and everyone else.

Comments: Colin Bird: Our buildings not made for inclusivity, eg access and audibility.

Should we bring Communion from the altar to the people more often?

Alan Stewart: Use the old to teach the young. And let the young teach the old.

The Revd Professor Paul Watson: The ARocha Silver Award at Christ Church, Ware.  
UK Govt Committee on Climate Change 2 May 2019. Seeking Net Zero greenhouse gases by 2050. Only possible if ð . Without delay

The UN Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecology 6 May 2019 stated that one million species are threatened with extinction.

Will our children be left to clear up the mess? They could ask why we have left them this mess.

We are living beyond our means . unsustainable.

The era of consumption without consequences is ending.

A Rocha has Christian values, caring for God's earth. And conservation and community.

Cross-cultural. Cooperation by all who share the values.

1500 churches now involved with A Rocha.

**“From creed to coffee, from invocation to insulation and worship to wildlife”.**

ARocha's Eco Survey of a church involves:

Worship and Teaching

Management of churches

Management of church resources

Community and global engagement

Lifestyle

Eco Church reward points, depending on engagement. Few churches are in the Gold category thus far. How often is the environment and its care the focus of church activity?

Do you serve Fairtrade?

Do you have a wildlife area? (Christ Church Ware has little green land).

Why should we get involved? It is our Christian responsibility. We have the opportunity to be an example to our neighbour. The church is one of the biggest groups in the country, we can work together with and for others in our society.

**The greatest threat to our planet is to believe that someone else will save it.**

Register [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)

4. Apologies for absence. Diana Perkins, Catriona Baker, Revd Ysmena Pentelow, Revd Amanda Duncan, Lynne Griffiths, Ian Aitken, Colin Taylor, Revd Jenny Gray. Mike West, Janet Bird, Revd Anne Donaldson.
5. Minutes of the previous Synod (4 February 2019) sent 11 February. Accepted
6. Matters Arising. Nil.
7. Parish Share as at 31.3.19 This can be checked on the Diocese of St Albans website. There is only nine weeks of cash at the Diocese if money does not come in. This is the biggest risk to our ministry.
8. Reports, inc Diocesan Board of Finance Accounts for y/e 31.12.18, previously circulated. Colin gave a huge thank you to parishes which are doing their best.
9. Deanery MAP update . The Revd Mark Dunstan. Mark directed us to the Deanery website; still only half of members have signed up. Some messages come through from the website, so people will miss out on information.  
Important Questions. Is your parish working well with another parish?  
Could your Wardens, Treasurer etc give support to others who are new to the task? Or vice versa.  
Please convey items from Synod to your parish. Identify training for key workers, eg Intercessors? They need to be heard, and in a particular way. Also re Bible readers, new PCC members, Trustees etc: we can share the training.  
We have now made Presentations on the areas we identified . what is the next step for you? It is likely to be different for each church, but we can work together.  
Also please give information to Mark/Deanery Website about your activities.
10. Appointment at Hartford Hundred Group: The Revd Theresa Musiwacha has been appointed, commencing on Thursday 5 September at St Mary's, Essendon, 7.30pm Please pray for her, the family and the HH Group.
11. Any Other Business. Katie was voted in by the House of Laity as a member of Synod for the Diocese (currently being reviewed).  
By 10 July a response is needed about how long lay members can serve, please mention in the parish.  
Electoral Roll numbers to the Diocese and to the Deanery Secretary by the end of the month please.  
Any more for 10/7 meeting at High Leigh?
12. Closing Prayer

13. Next Meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at High Leigh (by booking only)  
Future date ; Thursday 17 October.