

Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod Standing and Pastoral Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Monday 2nd September 2019

1. Welcome and Prayer

2. **Apologies for Absence.** Janet Bird, Mike West

3. **Minutes** of 1 April 2019 approved

4. **Matters arising.** Andy Lester payment; not yet possible. Theft and Insurance info: there has been a recent burglary. Recent alarms at All SS cost 7k, but full insurance now in force; a few grants were available. CCW was told that being urban they do not need this – unclear situation. Bayford cannot afford this, a massive roof repair needed; they have asked local houses to look out for possible thieves.

5. **Fresh Expressions update.** They have sent a Questionnaire – has it led to Baptism, Confirmation? Alan Stewart has said that it feels inappropriate for his parish. Diana and Catriona said this is still in early days. Concerns were raised about how FX turns into more regular church matters. Mark said it challenged his “laziness” and made him think further. However, if the FX produces no new disciples etc how long do we keep it going? The Committee considered whether we, the C of E, really want to share our belief in God.

Jo asked whether we might continue this discussion at a Synod meeting.....

6. **Parish Share** – Situation re Stanstead Abbots adjustments – this has now been sorted out by the Rural Dean. Jo commented that the Treasurers had been keen to help.

7. **Deanery Website** www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk More info re events would be very worthwhile. Mark is always looking out for items. Catriona asked about having Guest Bloggers, which met with a positive response. It was not generally felt that the Synod should become involved in political issues.

8. **Deanery MAP update.** The process is currently being rethought at the Diocese. A new means of clergy allocation is in the pipeline. Clergy numbers are being lowered.

9. **Great Amwell with St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots.**

The Revd Anne Donaldson retires at the end of September, the Benefice falls vacant at the end of October.

10. **Hartford Hundred.** The Revd Theresa Musiwacha will be Licensed this Thursday 5th September, 7.30pm at St Mary’s, Essendon.

Colin said how much the parishes are looking forward to her beginning

ministry, they have stressed that they wish to assist as it is not otherwise possible to have services every Sunday in all five churches.

11. **Little Amwell.** The Revd Sally Dryden will be Licensed 2nd October. Mark mentioned that Facebook suggests she has moved in, with a photo of Sally at the front door.
12. **Synod meal and discussions at High Leigh, 10 July.**
Review, finance. Lyn said it was a very good evening. Diana suggested we could do this every other year? Amazing food.
13. **Future Deanery Synod meetings and potential topics.**
A suggestion remains of a talk on Christian Stewardship and Fundraising for Big Projects. Tim Bull re Lay Ministry (email from June). Modern Day slavery; this was considered at Diocesan Synod. "Setting Lay Ministry Free"; for 17 October, whether by Tim Bull or another. Also feedback from Lay Leaders of Worship, how their involvement is progressing. Jo to contact Tim (or others). Also TB might add the issue of Ministry among/Worshipping with the Elderly. Mark said that recent C of E thinking has been for larger churches rather than medium (20-50 members). It is recognised that the gap needs to be addressed. Jo said we need to say to Tim that there are real issues here for us.
14. **SPC Committee members** – the search continues
15. **Diocesan Synod Representation** – likewise. Katy Little was voted onto Diocesan Synod legally at the 10th July meeting.
16. **Lambeth Conference 2020.** Update. Possible Deanery Synod meeting with whichever Bishop is allocated. There could be interpretation issues.
17. **Meeting dates** for a. Churchwardens b. Treasurers. Archdeaconry Budget Presentation Monday 14 October, 7.45 All Saints, Hertford.
18. **Any other business** – please notify the Rural Dean or Secretary prior to the day of the meeting of any substantial items. Financial report.....
19. **Next SPC and Synod meetings.**
SPC meeting Monday 25th November.
Deanery Synod Thursday 17 October 2019, venue St Andrew's, Stanstead Abbots . Also early/mid February to be decided. Christ Church Ware would like us to Come and See for the Feb Synod. Bishop re-opens church on 2nd February – Synod 2nd March.
Mark mentioned how we might ensure that FX, Children's Work etc. is Missional. The Deanery can/should be a source of sharing expertise when issues arise. How can we make this so? Catriona suggested that Synod members should take questions from Synod back to their PCC,

asking what goals and concerns they have. Colin said there is a problem that Sunday is no longer a day for going to church for most people, and it is very difficult to change that. Deadline Date needed for feedback on key concerns, Three Key Goals. Mark to devise.

20. **Prayer.**

Dear Doug,

This email is all that I have had from Stephen Lyon and it was also sent to Jo so presumably you have already seen it.

We have talked about taking a bishop (should we be allocated one) on a tour of or visit to church schools in the deanery (I am going to check if any have links with any countries overseas) and having a large celebration service in All Saints for the whole Deanery, but obviously we would need to know who is coming and for how long.

Hospitality will be needed and possibly transport but Colin and I will be available if needed and are happy to offer a bed if that would help.

Love

Janet

Dear Friends,

You may well pick up on the grape-vine that we have allocated specific bishops to other Deaneries around the Diocese. We have. We had to make a decision as to whether we waited until we had confirmations of the acceptance of Bishop Alan's invitation to join us pre Lambeth from at least 20 bishops before we allocated them around the diocese or whether we worked with those who had accepted.

We took the latter route, so I am writing to say we have not forgotten you and as soon as we have further acceptances I will be in touch with the bishop's name and contact details as well the some guidelines for the Deanery programme.

In the meantime I hope you have a restful time over the summer.

Yours,

Stephen

Stephen Lyon