

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.

Monday 2nd December 2019

At St Andrew☩, Stanstead Abbots

7.30 Refreshments: 7.45pm Meeting

Minutes

Chair . The Revd Mark Dunstan, Assistant Rural Dean

1. Welcome and Introduction. Lynne Griffiths welcomed the Synod to St Andrews and explained the 3 churches. St Andrew☩ was consecrated in 1881 and the Revd John Hookway☩ great great great grandfather funded it: Mr Thomas Buxton . including the bells, organ and stained-glass window. Mark welcomed our new priests, Sally and Theresa, to their first H&W Synod meeting.
2. Prayer.
3. Apologies for absence: Sue Rogers, Revd Robert Thompson, Dinah Findlay, Dorothy Abel Smith, Revd Amanda Duncan, Revd Jenny Gray, David Goodman, Ian Bailey, Pat Parker.
4. Minutes of the previous Synod Meetings . Extraordinary Meeting 10.7.2019 (sent 25 July) and 14.5.2019 Both accepted
5. Matters arising. More info for the Deanery Website please.
The Electoral Roll figures came through.
It was clarified that there is currently no requirement re length of service.
6. General Synod report . Simon Baynes was unable to attend.
7. Main Topic Canon Tim Bull and the Revd Alison Jackson . Lay Ministry
8. Parish Share as at 31.10.19 This can be checked on the Diocese of St Albansq website. Regular Direct Debits work better than cheques. Thanks to all who give regularly, six parishes currently behind in payments; equivalent to 0.5 of a clergy person.
9. Reports, inc Diocesan Board of Finance . Colin Bird: Of the six parishes with amounts outstanding, three need a visit to assist as we cannot afford to fall too

low. It is tough for all of us. Costs will increase next year by only 2% but with less members -2% p.a. - it costs more per church member. But we are relatively fortunate; land here is valuable, which helps this Diocese from time to time.

Colin explained that new modelling will be happening. Safeguarding is currently being intensified, bringing more costs.

10. Lambeth Conference 2020: Bishop of the Congo allocated to this Deanery. Bishop Michael has been there recently, a very hard situation; if he does come, TLC may well be needed.
11. Deanery MAP update . The Revd Mark Dunstan. Reviewing the Seven Goals. A. Parish Share. B. Website C. Communication and Collaboration between parishes . consider further. D. Strategic working, clearly communicating our vision and our goals, meeting and proclaiming Christ. E. Training, guidance. F. Identify weaknesses in communication in the Deanery, we need more progress. Work to do. G. Plan specific presentations . achieved!
12. Reaching New People is the current emphasis of Fresh Expressions, with the Big Conversation scheme to come to our Deaneries in 2020: The Rural Dean. Jo: This is the third part . big conversations with our PCCs, how do we meet and encourage younger people. Janet; it is not the Diocese telling us what to do; two people can come to the PCC to listen. Tim: Growing Younger means anyone younger, not specifically teenagers/twenties. Jo: Many parishes have their MAP on the Notice Board. Do not feel daunted.
13. Events in the Deanery . please share interesting parish involvement in mission, caring or learning. Christ Church Ware and the Forgiveness Project . reconciling stories from around the world, connected with many topics and events. We are looking forward to 27 February.
14. Any Other Business RD on Safeguarding; sometimes families or couples ask for priests from elsewhere to lead services or retired without license: consent/check is needed. Vital to check, especially important in vacancies. This is a firm rule.
What are we doing about Climate Change?
15. 9.10 Closing Prayer
16. Next Meeting: Early Late February or early March 2020 at the newly reordered Christ Church, Ware (Now agreed for 27 February)

Representatives please note that communication in the Deanery depends on arranging and delivering a Deanery Report/update at your Parochial Church Council meeting.

Deanery website www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk

Canon Tim Bull.

Training for Lay People. Needs ..

1. Confidence. Personal, understanding, certainty of God's love.
2. Call. Enabling people to hear and respond.
3. Contribution. Making a difference in local churches. Getting stuck in!

New training principles.

For LGL to be really successful we need all people involved.

Growth in personal discipleship, living faithfully wherever we go.

Mission focussed, proclaiming the kingdom outside the church

Accessible, not just Holywell Lodge. Will we turn up? Local groups and online learning

Recognising gifts people have already, build rather than de-skill.

Discerning vocations . perhaps on to Ordination. ~~Maybe~~ Maybe I could do that?+

Working in partnership, inc. Eastern Region Training Course, Church Mission Society

This is fully costed, already in the budget, no additional parish share.

Three strands .

- Foundation; for all, with Incumbent/PCC agreement. Online, 2 hrs study per week
- Lay Pioneers with CMS
- Reader training will become two years.

The two one year courses are very different, as some may want to do both.

The Revd Alison Jackson

Dreamers Who Do: A new pathway for Mission Pioneers.

Note clearly that we are all made in God's image but all different!

Pioneers have always been people called by God - see the first photograph of the slide . We are one of four Dioceses who have this opportunity. Until now no chance of training for pioneer ministry. Are there people who want to do things but need training?

16 training modules, 14 hours each inc. some Saturdays and each Wednesday.

Deepening our Understanding+Proximity of inherited forms of worship depends on context and vocation. Their ministry might not initially look like church at all. This is on the second enclosed photo.

Unfortunately the writing on the latter slide was so small that despite the Secretary being very close and using glasses it was illegible. This is a resume of what appears to be there.

CHURCH PLANTING

Church replicators - replicate a model of church in a new place. E.g. church plants
Pioneer adaptors . adapt a recognised model of church to help create a new ecclesial community. E.g. Messy Church, Café Church

Pioneer Innovators . venture into a hard corner, serve, build relationship, offer discipleship, and allow the gospel response to shape a new ecclesial community. And Pioneer Innovators venture into the edges of post-modern culture, exploring spirituality alongside fellow seekers and (unreadable). E.g. Missional community, neo-monastic community, Emerged Church.

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM/SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Pioneers venture into secular space to influence and transform it in the name of Christ. E.g. Kingdom orientated social enterprise

The comment is made that each step represents an increasing cultural distance.

Alison hopes that churches will find people wanting to join.

Alison also mentioned ministry to families coping with the aftermath of knife crime.

Questions

(May . July next Lay Leaders of Worship course locally. Very valuable)

The permission for the courses has now been given by all relevant parties.

Sally asked about the Local ministry development team at Lt Amwell which she has inherited: reply that there are 8-9 such teams in the Diocese, but they need a disproportionate amount of effort. Not actively encouraging more, but support for existing ones.

Will they be Licensed? Licensing is a technical matter, for clergy and readers, nationally recognisable. LLWs are locally commissioned.

Chalice assistants need to be commended by the Incumbent and agreed by the Bishop.