

Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod Standing and Pastoral Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Monday 25th November 2019
at All Saints Hertford, 2.00pm

1. **Welcome and Prayer**
2. **Apologies for Absence.** Colin Taylor
3. **Minutes** of 2nd September
4. **Matters arising.**
5. **Fresh Expressions update.** In the Diocese, FX may not be a focus for the future, now RNP, and in LGL promote Growing Younger. Their strategy is to have conversations with PCCs about how to reach younger people. Next year, a review of LGL with Big Conversations, people being trained in February (first one already happened, Jo and Janet attended), a pair going to each PCC discussing the way ahead. What are people doing well, what are the problems? Lyn said this is better than doing it on your own. As a Deanery we know each other, better than Diocesan level. A listening situation, and networking. (Janet added that the Big Conversations Enabler had stated that people may be asked to go to a different Deanery, tbc). Colin Taylor had mentioned how difficult it is to bridge the gap between school and church. Same at St Margaret's – and many others. It is hoped that this will help. Occasional Services seen as a very significant growth point. Good contacts and events at St Mary's Ware were mentioned. Concern that sometimes people come to one carol service (school, crib?) with their children and that is considered to be their worship. Lyn said we need to go out and meet new people: agreed definitely. In Hertford, concern for the homeless is a priority at present, churches involved – difficulties acknowledged, ideally a place to go in addition to Hot Meals.
6. **Parish Share** – Information can be accessed on the St Albans Diocesan website. <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/d08/> Concern that we are not entirely up to date at present. An approach is to be made to the parish which is not paying. Mark mentioned a concern that many parishes pay by cheque not by DD, it can become a cashflow issue. Jo: a DD for the non-paying parish would take away a lot of need to write and post cheques! Mark underlined the need for an actual Treasurer in certain parishes. Janet checked the figures on her phone, most parishes paying well other than two specific concerns.
7. **Deanery Website** www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk Mark reported little change, but updating continues.

8. **Deanery MAP update** New MAPs are to be drawn up, parishes will be asked to look again. The situation at St Mary's, Ware and at Hunsdon/Widford were highlighted.
9. **Great Amwell with St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots.**

The Revd Anne Donaldson retired at the end of October, the parishes are now in Vacancy. Lyn, with Richard Mellor, has had a conversation with the Archdeacon re. full-time replacement or not: Jo asked how the Deanery might assist, evaluated the options. The conversation was due to finance being poor, no decisions made, hoping to ease the burden. Jo pointed out that Goffs Oak has been available for many months, part-time plus Diocesan post. Mark felt it could add up to more than one post, unfair on clergy. CONFIDENTIAL (as all our discussions are). Jo suggested that Stanstead Abbots ask Amanda Duncan.
10. **Financial report.** OK, no need to request funds yet.
11. **Childless Women of the Bible** – distributed with this Agenda for our reflection. Thanks to Catriona. Colin Taylor responded very positively, really important, wants to share with the PCC. Catriona – it spoke of an ageing church with no young people coming through. A helpful metaphor, nothing to come after them? Hard to talk about, this is a way of doing so without blame. Opinions divided.
12. **Future Deanery Synod meetings and potential topics.**

Christian Stewardship and Fundraising for Big Projects – ask John Hookway for March Synod (date to change due to his availability)? Plus Colin Bird re Finance? Diana to Chair.

Modern Day slavery, following Diocesan Synod item, trafficking. The Big Conversation and the Future of FX.

John Duncan re **Extinction Rebellion**, which is a concern for younger people in particular. (Children at Watton have processed through the village).
13. **SPC Committee members** – the search continues
14. **Diocesan Synod Representation** – likewise.
15. **Lambeth Conference 2020.** Update. The Bishop is new, many difficulties in his Diocese of the Congo – Ebola etc (French-speaking). Janet happy to pick up and accommodate if no-one else does. He may need a quiet time and TLC most of all. Janet knows a number of French speakers.
16. **Any other business** – please notify the Rural Dean or Secretary prior to the day of the meeting of any substantial items. Diana – the Forgiveness Project, 29 Feb Exhibition at CCW. She will send details. Also Christian Cole (?)

17. Agenda items for 2 December Synod Tim Bull on Lay Ministry – open this to Lay Leaders and potential ones, Janet seeing Tim tonight and will send information to DL asap. Simon from General Synod to report. Chair – Mark.

18. Next SPC and Synod meetings.

SPC meeting – Monday 3 February. Agreed.

Deanery Synod 2nd March 2020, venue (the new) Christ Church, Ware to be confirmed/ booked: Come and See - *plus topic needed see above.*

19. Prayer.