

Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod Standing and Pastoral Committee

Minutes of the meeting on Monday 3rd February 2020 at All Saints
Hertford, 2.00pm

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence. Diana Perkins, Janet Bird.
3. Minutes of 25 November 2019 agreed
4. Matters arising. Nil.
5. Reaching New People update. From FX to RNP – it sounds and feels more achievable. We can all feel more comfortable as we long to reach out to others. Tomorrow sees the Conference at High Leigh to consider Big Conversations, with Deanery Chairs, Asst RDs and Lay Chairs. Mark said that it has been interesting to see the different clerical approaches at Chapter, some more obviously accommodating than others. Mark would normally say he is up for new ideas and initiatives if traditional forms are not working. But, at present the parish is not in a position to do this, despite there being a will. Lyn agreed. St Mary's, Ware not currently finding FX/RNP things to do. There is a wide perception that there is too much being demanded, with things begun but not followed through.

Jo: can we list things we do in this area on our websites? Can we share our ideas with others? Might there be people who would want to share their vision across the Deanery? Mark asked "How can the CofE reach out beyond its normal work?"

6. Parish Share – Information can be accessed on the St Albans Diocesan website. <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/finance/> Dec 2019 94% paid. (January figures now available also)
7. Deanery Website www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk
Confirmations dates need to be clarified and shared. The information is up to date.
8. Deanery MAP update. Four goals are awaiting our attention:
 - a. Identify partnerships between parishes – we have yet to facilitate this;
 - b. Communicating clearly with parishes our vision and goals;
 - c. establish the needs of the parishes and diocese, how does communication happen?;
 - d. training needs. We need to identify needs and offer assistance.

For the new MAP do we need a fresh beginning? Currently we have not dealt with this effectively. Jo said that this is a suitable topic for a Synod meeting, hopefully Jo, Mark and Diana can consider this at the coming conference. Mark said that Bishop Michael wanted us to find one thing for the Deanery to work on – we have yet to achieve that.

Concern that clergy often do not always attend Synod. DL suggested that this could be taken to the Chapter. Mike agreed. Colin noted that it is rare to see many Clergy at Synod.

9. Great Amwell with St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots. Presentation suspended for two years from 21.10.19. An opportunity for reflection to see what fits best. Lyn said that the notice had given the impression that the Church was closing. They feel let down. Any new priest in charge would have only twelve to fifteen months. Hard to imagine how to change the situation sufficiently in the time given. Most people in the parish feel that a decision has been made already.

Lyn asked Colin re the vacancy in Hartford Hundred. He was not pleased that there was a 6 month gap before anything began to happen. Too much delay, no good for the churches, you cannot move forward.

In the 3 churches the ex-Vicar is still very much in contact with a newsletter etc. which is very concerning.

10. Financial report. Treasurer not present.
11. Safeguarding in the churches of our Deanery; review following the BBC documentary re Bp Peter Ball and Abp George Carey. Could we invite Carol to a Synod meeting?
12. Following up on Lay Ministry and Education, Replicating and Pioneering Ministry from the Synod meeting. Pioneer Ministry Taster Day, Sat May 23rd, at St Mary's Church, Luton. Reader Training begins in September, following the selection process. Lay Leaders of Worship trained on six Wednesday evenings at Christ Church Ware from 22 April. All information is available on the Diocesan Website.

13. Future Deanery Synod meetings - potential topics. Forgiveness next. July: In-house - How to work together re items in item 8. May: Modern Day slavery, from Diocesan Synod. The Big Conversation and the Future of FX. Safeguarding.
14. SPC Committee members and Diocesan Synod Representation – this year sees the Triennial elections; arrangements to be made. Note at the next Synod meeting.
15. Lambeth Conference 2020. Update. Bishop Cyril's Diocese of the Congo has an ongoing Ebola crisis and one of his priests was killed: may need a quiet time rather than a busy schedule. Bp Michael said to go easy.
16. Any other business. Nil
17. Agenda for 27 February Synod; no additions.
18. Next SPC and Synod meetings.
SPC meeting – Monday 27 April
Deanery Synod 27th February, then Tuesday 2 June, Thursday 10 Sept and Mon 23 November.
19. Prayer.