

Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod

www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk

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 8th February 2021

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting 7.45pm

Chair – The Revd Mark Dunstan, Assistant Rural Dean

1. Welcome and Introductions. Many people joined in very good time and were placed in break-out rooms to catch up with one another and their parishes, which went very positively. As we came back together, Mark thanked John Hookway for his help with the technology.
2. Prayers – Diana Perkins, Lay Chair Psalm 131 and from CofE website re crisis
3. Apologies for absence: Revd Alan Stewart, Dorothy Abel-Smith, Helen Harris.
4. Minutes of the previous Synod Meeting 12 November 2020, accepted with one name change.
5. Matters arising. -
6. Election of the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee. This will be dealt with at our next meeting, hopefully our current members will stay on however we have clerical and lay vacancies. Please consider this prayerfully.
7. Main Topic: The Revd Ysmena Pentelow, The Revd David Sheppard and Katy Little, Ordinand reflected on the General Synod Measure on Clergy Well-Being. Information below, and see attachments.
8. Diocesan Synod report: Janet Bird 5 minutes (sent with the Agenda)
9. Parish Share and Diocesan Board of Finance – Colin Bird (sent with the Agenda). Colin highlighted the letter from Bishop Alan today, thanking everyone. Although we are short, this is still quite remarkable. Parish Share has done well. Funeral fees income has, regrettably, been higher than expected. Investments were moved to global markets which have performed better. There remains great concern for the first half of this year. 5% of Parish Share has not been paid overall. In our deanery we are average, but some churches have not contributed as we would hope. A Deanery Zoom meeting for Treasurers has been arranged for Tuesday 23rd February to share and support.

10. Events in the Deanery – life is quiet for obvious reasons.
11. Any Other Business
12. Closing Prayer
13. Forthcoming Meeting: Tuesday 16 March “Where are we now?/The Way Ahead”

Clergy Well-Being

GS 2133 Full Report available on the Church of England website.

Ysmena offered her reflections, which are enclosed as a separate file.

David’s reflections centred on the Book “How Clergy Thrive”, a Church of England publication which gives a wide-ranging insight into the Clerical life. Enclosed.

Katy spoke as a member of the Eastern Region Ministry College, which is currently a virtual community. They need to meet on zoom instead of normal weekend conferences.

Katy asked college members about well-being: they are a very varied group.

1. What is most likely to affect your positive well-being as an Ordinand?
2. Affect badly?

Astonishingly similar results:

Constructive feedback;

- To have our own style of spiritual growth
- To acquire a good support network

Negative

- High expectations,
- C of E press image - how do I feel about the image
- Lack of communication.
- Family life, especially knowing we will be moving home.

COVID re training, work, etc

Support network always seemed to come from ourselves, not from the Diocese.

Where are our borders, when do we turn off?