

Hertford and Ware Deanery

Minutes of the STANDING COMMITTEE Meeting held on Monday 10th May 2022 at 1.15pm via Zoom

Present: Mrs Janet Bird (JB), Revd Mark Dunstan (MD)(Chair), Mr Mike West (MW), Revd Dr Sarah Forrest (SF), Mrs Lyn Paddon (LP), Mrs Diana Perkins (DP), Revd Ysmena Pentelow (YP), Mrs Marion Little (ML) secretary.

1. MD opened the meeting in prayer
2. No apologies as everyone was in attendance
3. No declarations of interest were made
4. Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting on 24/01/22 were agreed.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. MD reported that the website and blog would have news from other sources from next month.
 - b. YP reported that she had received no update on the issue with Ponsbourne and Herts CC.
 - c. JB reported that Colin Bird had spoken to Tony Boon regarding the error in the loan figure for Great Amwell & St John's raised by LP but had not had a response. LP reported that the figure was still incorrect on the report.
 - d. JB and YP had joined the Archdeacon's briefing and review but there was nothing unexpected to report back on.
 - e. MD reported that Revd Rachel Wakefield had been nominated as the Deanery link person to the General Synod.
6. There was nothing to review from the Synod Meeting on 21/06/21 that was not covered by the agenda.
7. **To consider the Parish Share report:**

MD shared the latest set of figures dated 30/04 which showed the Deanery just below 33% expected at 31.9%. It was noted that Watton at Stone (36.8%), Christchurch Ware (39.55%) and Aston had contributed the biggest share whilst Ponsborne was significantly down, and High Cross continue to fail to contribute. Colin Bird joined the meeting briefly to update members on the situation at High Cross, reporting that he had agreed to meet with the treasurer and sort out their finances and would report back again. CB was thanked for his efforts to sort this long-standing issue. It was noted that several parishes had paid 25% of their share which possibly indicated they paid quarterly.
8. **To receive and update the Deanery MAP:**

Standing Committee Members had been asked to take a lead on each of the groups to look realistically at forward plans and overview of what was needed. The following was agreed:

 - a. Social Action: SF & LP
 - b. Parish Share / Finance: JB – YP reported that Graham Meldrum from St Mary's Ware might be willing to help
 - c. New Development: YP & MW also, Cllr Phyllis Ballam had expressed interest
 - d. Fresh Expressions: DP

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*Our vision is 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.*

Mrs Marion Little, Deanery Secretary, secretary@hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk

- e. Overall Deanery Plan: MD. It was noted this would include any parish re-organisation.
- f. It was agreed that each group should give a brief report to the next Deanery Synod meeting. **Action: All**

9. To draft the agenda for the Synod meeting on 7th July:

- a. MD noted he might be in Coventry.
- b. It was reported that Lorraine Newman has agreed to lead the keynote presentation on Waterways Chaplaincy and SF would liaise how best to develop engagement. **Action: SF to contact Lorraine Newman**
- c. As above there would be a short presentation from each of the five Deanery MAP Groups
- d. Agreed that St Andrew's Stanstead Abbots would be the venue. **Action: SF to book**
- e. Two new Curates from Ware Christ Church and Ware St Mary's could also be welcomed at this Synod. **Action: MD/YP to invite**
- f. It was noted that there would not be any General Synod presentation because the two Synods were at the same time
- g. YP highlighted that the Deanery had 2 clergy and 2 lay vacancies on the Diocesan Synod and encouraged everyone to help ensure we are fully represented. JB thought it would be to have a representative from a more rural parish. **Action: All to consider**

10. Deanery & Parish news and updates:

- a. JB reported that All Saints Hertford were now holding meetings on the Environment on 1st Saturday of each month. They had also suffered lots of vandalism, especially to windows. Also, she had been privileged to be nominated to receive Maundy Money at the service in Windsor. She was congratulated by all.
- b. SF reported that St John the Baptist, Great Amwell, had held a very successful art exhibition raising £1k approx. St Mary at St Margaret's would be launching their Drop In Community Hub on 8th June and St Andrew, Stanstead Abbots, had now had their accounts for both 2020 and 2021 signed off and also had a new church warden.
- c. Several parishes had plans and offers of help and support for Ukrainian refugees.

11. To select topics and consider speakers for future Synod Meetings:

Agreed that MD should invite The Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust to the November Synod following their request for some agenda time. **Action: MD to invite**

12. Any Other Urgent Business:

After a brief discussion it was agreed to leave parish share allocations as they are for the next three years. MD would talk to Clergy and JB would talk to PCC Treasurers to seek their views. **Action MD & JB to contact**

13. To agree dates for the next Synod Meetings:

It was noted that the original November date (15th) would clash with General Synod. MD would ask Rachel Wakefield if she would be available to give a report at a meeting on 22nd November. If so, we would change the date.

- a. Thursday 7th July
- b. Tuesday 22nd November TBC
- c. Monday 20th March 2023

14. The dates for the Standing Committee are:

- a. Thursday 22nd September – neither DP or LP could make an afternoon meeting. It was agreed to change it to Tuesday 20th September (still at 1.15pm)
- b. Monday 23 January 2023

15. There being no other urgent business the meeting closed with prayer