

Hertford and Ware Deanery

Minutes of the STANDING COMMITTEE Meeting held on Thursday 20th September 2022 at 1.15pm at St Mary's, Ware church

Present: Revd Mark Dunstan (MD)(Chair), Revd Dr Sarah Forrest (SF), Mrs Lyn Paddon (LP), Mr Mike West (MW), Mrs Marion Little (ML) secretary.

1. MD opened the meeting in prayer.
2. Apologies had been received from Revd Ysmena Pentelow (YP).
3. No declarations of interest were made.
4. Minutes of the meeting on 10th May 2022 were agreed.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. Vacancies on the Diocesan Synod – to be raised again at the next Deanery Synod
 - b. MD had contacted the Herts & Beds Historic Churches Trust who have accepted the invitation to make a presentation to the next Deanery Synod meeting.
6. **Review of the Synod Meeting of date of last Synod meeting**

Everyone felt that it had been a very positive meeting with the presentation about the Waterways Chaplaincy integrating into the Social Action group outline worked well. Attendance was limited.
7. **To receive reports from Task Groups:**
 - a. Environment: Christ Church have recently won an award for their activity, Hertford All Saints are continuing with their monthly Saturday morning Environment meetings and St Andrews are working on an Environment project. There was a need for information and sharing ideas, especially around the net Zero commitment. MD would look at ways to access and share information and best practices.
 - b. Fresh Expressions / Reaching New People: MD reported that Diana Perkins had reported that there had been no response following her outline to the last Deanery Synod
 - c. New Developments: MW reported that he and YP were looking to get all interested parties together over coffee. Nearly every parish had some new development affecting them. SF highlighted the recent Quarry plan affecting Stanstead Abbots
 - d. Parish Share & Finances: MD reported that with help from Janet Bird, he had written to the nine out of 25 parishes who were behind with their parish share payments. Responses were:
 - Ponsborne – have paid 42% but are awaiting payment for school rental. MD is meeting with them on 21/09 and will discuss with them an application for a grant.

www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk

*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

- Gt Amwell – have issues with their Tower and also with trees in the churchyard. This would need following up.
- Thundridge & High Cross – Colin Bird has been helping them and they have now made some payments. The first time in several years

MD reminded the meeting that the deadline for Parish Support Grants to the Diocese is 20/10/22. The Standing Committee would need to meet beforehand to approve any grant applications.

Overall, the picture in this Deanery was positive

- e. Social Action: LP and SF were continuing and expanding their activity and are looking to meet with anyone interested after half term. There was some discussion on how to engage with parishes and to get the message across. MD would put together a strategy to deal with this.

8. To receive an update on the Deanery MAP:

- a. Goal 2.2 Training – for the Deanery to work together and provide mutual support. MD had asked clergy for training needs and the following had been suggested:
 - i. First Aid
 - ii. Fire Extinguisher Use
 - iii. Food Hygiene
 - iv. Church Warden
- b. There was also a discussion on how best practices and good ideas could be shared for example between treasurers for fundraising/grant applications or children's activities. MD would look at extending and expanding the Deanery website

9. Deanery & Parish news and updates:

- a. St Mary's Ware had just started decorating the Nave of the church
- b. Major works have gone out to tender for St Margaret's who were also looking at possibly refurbishing their organ and looking to get it listed.

10. Draft Agenda for the Synod Meeting on Tuesday 22nd November 2022:

- a. MD had confirmed that Revd Rachel Wakefield will send a report from the recent General Synod.
- b. The Herts and Beds Historic Churches Trust will make a presentation
- c. There will be a focus on the Environment working group

11. To select topics and consider speakers for future Synod meetings. The March Synod would look at rising Energy costs and the impact on Social Action

12. Other Business: There might be a need for an emergency Standing Committee to agree any applications for grants to the Diocese before the October deadline. MD would organise a meeting via Zoom if required.

13. The dates for Synod Meetings are:

- a. Tuesday 22nd November
- b. Monday 20th March 2023
- c. Thursday 13th July 2023 (was 6th, but clashes with Gen Syn)
- d. Tuesday 21st November 2023 (was 14th, but clashes with Gen Syn)
- e. Monday 18th March 2024
- f. Thursday 11th July 2024
- g. Tuesday 26th November 2024

14. The dates for the Standing Committee are:

- a. Monday 23 January 2023
- b. Tuesday 9th May 2023
- c. Thursday 21st September 2023
- d. Monday 22nd January 2024
- e. Thursday 16th May 2024
- f. Tuesday 1st October 2024

15. The meeting closed with the Grace.

Post Meeting Note:

MD remembered that DP had previously indicated to him that she would not be present at the meeting. Her apologies should have been received by the meeting.