

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS

Aldenham – St John the Baptist	<i>St Albans city parishes</i>	
Bricket Wood – St Luke	Abbey	St Paul
Colney Heath – St Mark	Christ Church	St Peter
Frogmore – Holy Trinity	St Luke	St Saviour
London Colney – St Peter	St Mary, Marshalswick	St Stephen with St Julian
Radlett – Christ Church and St John	St Michael with St Mary	
Shenley – St Martin		

ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD (Anonymised for data protection purposes)

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Deanery Synod
held at 8.00 pm on Thursday 16th November 2017
at Christ Church, St Albans.

PRESENT

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance – 40 Members recorded. No representatives from St Peter’s, St Albans recorded. All other parishes represented.

Advanced Apologies received – 18 Apologies on the night - 7

Abbreviations used: **DST – Deanery Strategy Team** **DSSC – Deanery Synod Standing Committee**
 DMAP – Deanery Mission Action Plan **DSIT – Deanery Synod Incumbents and Treasurers**

1 .	Welcome to St Albans Deanery Synod
	The Rural Dean welcomed everybody to the meeting which began at 8.10pm. A warm welcome was extended to RW who has moved to the Abbey to take up the post of vicar at St Saviour’s church; also to MS, newly appointed curate at Holy Trinity and to AP appointed at St Martin’s.
2.	Welcome to Christ Church, St Albans.
	<p>JF, welcomed everybody to Christ Church and gave a brief talk on what is happening within the parish. Unprecedented circumstances in the parish are the same across the deanery and across the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission focus • Grow numerically • Grow spiritually • Dashboard statistics show the anxiety about the decline of the church <p>Mission Action Plan (MAP) – Christ Church is revisiting theirs. They do not know how it will work out, but they wish to act with conviction and confidence. At the heart of the process is the question “What is God asking us to do?” and listening to what God is saying. Accepting that the fruits of their work now may be a long way off, perhaps 2-3 generations away; and trusting even though they may not see the rewards themselves.</p> <p>Alpha Course – had not been run for 5 years and the impact of this has been noticed. Christ Church is now running the official course and an unofficial one on Tuesday mornings.</p> <p>Worship – there is an ongoing challenge to balance the needs of parishioners who favour the traditional form of worship with those who prefer a more contemporary style. Music type has gone in different directions. Advertisement placed months ago for a Director of Music with no response. Recently re-advertised with increased salary and someone has stepped forward within the last few weeks.</p> <p>Children & Families Worker – post been in place for 3 years and a great deal of hard work has been done. However, interest tails off as children grow older as there is no Youth Worker in place. 2 months ago, the PCC agreed to funding for a Youth Worker, however, they later realised that income is down which would result in a deficit. PCC decided to go ahead with the Youth Worker as it is the right thing to do.</p> <p>The Rural Dean then read from Philippians 1 and from the Letters of Paul emphasising partnership. Living the Gospel, sharing the Gospel. Working together as a Deanery to support our 16 parishes.</p>
3.	Minutes of the last Deanery Synod Meeting – 21st June 2017
	The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 21 st June, were accepted as a true representation by the members and signed by the Rural Dean. Matters Arising –

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	<p>a) Standing Committee is still short of representatives. A 6th clergy member is required. RN put herself forward as the 5th lay member but a 6th lay member is also needed. The Rural Dean asked people to consider and to speak with him, the Lay Chair or Deanery Secretary if they have any questions.</p> <p>b) Deanery Treasurer – the position remains vacant but needs to be filled. Again, the Rural Dean asked members to consider who they could help.</p>						
4.	Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP) – Project Plan Update (Appendix 1)						
	<p>The Rural Dean is taking a sensitive approach to implementation. The DMAP is intended to operate as a partnership with parishes, not a burden. If people are not available or do not have the time at present, the Deanery will wait. We will look to spot talent and opportunities and be guided by it.</p> <p>In summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are in the middle of finding people/teams to take responsibility for our Goals • There is no “deadline” for delivering the DMAP, it is a work in progress to serve our ends <p>Goal 1 – Parish Ministry Support MD reported that the team has not yet met as a suitable date could not be found. Hope to set up early in the New Year. The aim of the team is to help parishes learn from one another, share experiences and ideas, establish 2-way communication between Deanery and Parishes and strengthen relationships between parishes.</p> <p>Goal 2 – Funerals Ministry – BL reported that this Goal has been led by KP (vicar at St Michael’s) and is nearing fruition. The team is engaged with local Funeral Directors as the number of church funerals has declined. Funeral Directors had been asking “Was X religious” and thereby steering relatives towards Crematorium services. The team has been able to re-engage with the Funeral Directors. Clergy at the Deanery have signed up to an agreement that they will respond to all enquiries for funerals within 24 hours. A leaflet/director’s card has been printed and is due to be distributed to all Funeral Directors as well as libraries, hospices, council offices etc.</p> <p>Goal 3 – Nurturing Vocations – JI reported that the team’s original plan was deemed too big and it was found that the Diocese was doing something similar. The team is now considering other options and ideas. One such is “Call and a Curry” – small groups, 8-10 people invited for a meal to talk in an informal, relaxed environment about their faith and how it can be nurtured. Currently there are 3 clergy on the team, it would be nice to have some lay members.</p> <p>Goal 4 – Mission Matters – equipping and training. JI reported that nothing much has been agreed to date. The aim is to help parishes obtain the training/support they need by pooling resources at Deanery level. Further offers of help would be welcome for this team. The Diocese is doing quite well at providing necessary training, so we would be looking to plug any gaps.</p> <p>Goal 5 – Reaching Young People. Again, there is little to report. xxx is good point of liaison at the Diocese.</p> <p>Goal 6 – X-Site – BL and HK reported on progress to date. Aim is to put on a “termly” big event for 7-11 year olds from 6-8pm. It will be run by an ecumenical team of clergy and volunteers offering games, crafts, bible study. Looking to attract approximately 100 children. The first one to run in Summer 2018. The main team is now looking for extra helpers – core people to be in charge of finance, administration, refreshments etc. Flyers have gone out and the team is trying to get Church Youth Workers involved.</p> <p>The Rural Dean added that this initiative should be helpful to all churches where there are only a small number of children in the congregation. It will create an opportunity to advertise the event at school assemblies and other youth events to draw people in from other communities and bring them to faith.</p> <p>Goal 7 – Communication – MF reported that the main issue is deciding on the best form or forms of communicating across the Deanery. The aim is to build a sense of belonging to the Deanery so content needs to be timely and relevant but also delivered in a format that people still want to read after the 2nd or 3rd issue. Electronic communication is the most cost-effective, however, people’s inboxes are inundated with emails and Deanery Newsletters could well go into Spam or simply be deleted/cleared out. Working to get feedback and input from a variety of people to take this forward.</p> <p>Lay Member commented that any communication needs to be kept short. She said the Minutes and papers for Synod are too much. The Key Points for consideration are required.</p> <p>Goal 8 – Deanery Directory – the Rural Dean reported that this is being printed and will be distributed via Incumbents.</p> <p>Goal 9 – Deanery Prayer – JF gave a brief report. Question as to what is “Thy Kingdom Come”? JF explained that it is a Deanery-wide initiative, 9 days of prayer leading up to Pentecost.</p>						
5.	Deanery Budget						
	<p><u>Project Plan Budget</u></p> <p>In the paper distributed in advance of today’s meeting there are 2 errors</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Nurturing vocation</td> <td>should read</td> <td>£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deanery Directory</td> <td>should read</td> <td>£210</td> </tr> </table>	Nurturing vocation	should read	£200	Deanery Directory	should read	£210
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	<p style="text-align: center;">TOTAL should read £2,850</p> <p>Room Hire for Deanery Meetings – Standing Committee discussed this and took it out of the Budget. Should parishes waive hall hire costs for Deanery meetings? The Rural Dean put the question to Synod?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Deanery meetings move round, it should be ok • It is not possible for Deanery to meet at some churches as their halls are not large enough or the acoustics are poor, so meetings tend to be held at certain churches which could be unfair. <p>The Rural Dean stated that the Budget is made up of proposed projects, not all of them will happen, some could come out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshments – the Deanery offers to share the cost of refreshments with the hosting church, the church does not have to accept the offer. <p>The Rural Dean asked Synod to vote on this.</p> <p>“Resolution to agree that Parishes will waive hall hire costs for Deanery meetings”</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Proposed by Revd Canon Javaid Iqbal</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">39</td> <td style="width: 40%;">For</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seconded by Revd Kylie Hodges</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td>Abstention</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td>Against</td> </tr> </table> <p>Motion carried.</p>	Proposed by Revd Canon Javaid Iqbal	39	For	Seconded by Revd Kylie Hodges	1	Abstention		0	Against
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6.	<p>Feedback on Life Expo 2017 – Holy Trinity, Frogmore.</p> <p>xxx from Holy Trinity presented the feedback.</p> <p>Life Expo is a mobile exhibition which aims to present Christianity in a fun, informative, interactive way to children in Years 5 & 6 (Years 2). It aims to put enquiry at the heart of learning. The Expo ran from 1st to 9th March and was attended by over 700 children from 15 schools.</p> <p>Each session last about 1 hour with 30 children in a class split into 3 groups of 10. There are 4 areas in the Expo, 3 “Pods” Red, Blue, Green with one area that takes the whole class, Yellow. 10 minutes per Pod include a short introductory talk and information board. Each child is given a Tablet to record answers questions, factual and their opinion. There is not correction of answers.</p> <p>Red Pod – Micah – 700 years predicted the birth of Christ Blue Pod – the Teachings of Christ Green Pod – the words of Christ Yellow Area – Betrayal of Christ</p> <p>Results/answers from the children are made available to Teachers to use in future RE lessons.</p> <p>More detailed Feedback is available if anyone would like it. Please ask the Deanery Secretary.</p> <p>Q – How far did schools come from? A – St Albans area, Kings Langley in south to north of St Albans</p> <p>Q – How much did schools pay? A – Nothing. £2k to hire was met by Trust Fund, £4k for transport was raised.</p> <p>Q – Has there been follow up with the schools since? A – Unfortunately not. Would be if churches related to schools and were connected so Clergy could encourage.</p>									
7.	<p>Synod Reports</p> <p><u>General Synod</u></p> <p>TF wrote the report which was distributed to members in advance of the meeting. He was unable to attend Deanery Synod so our General Synod representative SB, highlighted some points from the report and take any questions. General Synod representatives to feed questions from Deanery Synod to General Synod and vice versa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Synod met just after the General Election, so it was good to be able to discuss current issues in religious terms • The Press picked up on LGBT motions at the time but ignored the motion on Clergy Welfare • St Albans Deanery Synod has not passed a Motion up to Diocese Synod up to General Synod in 10 years <p>Challenge – is there a Motion that Deanery Synod would like to put to General Synod?</p>									

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	<p>AS suggested a Motion relating to the length of time taken to appoint a new incumbent after the departure of the previous. For ex St Stephens, the recent vacancy lasted 11 months which created a great deal of work for people within the parish who are not paid.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Draft Motion from Deanery Synod to Ger</p> <p><u>Diocesan Synod</u> Report by SN was distributed to all members in advance of tonight's meeting.</p> <p>DC – recorded thanks of the Diocesan Board of Finance that St Albans is the best Deanery for paying.</p> <p>The Rural Dean reported on the recent Rural Deans' meeting in the Archdeaconry of St Albans. Incumbents had written to Bishop voicing their concerns that the Diocese is not undertaking long-term financial planning and that Parish Share rising above inflation unacceptable. The letter in response was not satisfactory.</p> <p>The Diocese still has c£60k to lose from next year's budget. All posts are important but the Diocese had been forced to determine posts were least important. A consultation process was gone through using external consultants so all done according to the letter of the law. The result is that Bonne XXX and Chris XXX have now left their roles at the Diocese. The Rural Dean asked all members to pray for them.</p> <p>Parish Share has been capped at 3% for Ministry Support. We are being heard but the future is challenging.</p>						
8.	Finance Report						
	<p>AS (retired Deanery Treasurer) gave a brief presentation on Deanery Finances.</p> <p>A decision was needed from Synod on whether subscription levels should remain at £50 per elected Lay Member for 2018?</p> <p><i>NB – this is per each Lay Member that parishes are entitled to elect, not the actual number they elect e.g. if a parish is entitled to elect 3 Members but only actually elects 2, the parish is still liable to pay subscriptions for 3.</i></p> <p>AS proposed that Deanery keeps the subscription level at £50 per Lay Member for 2018 Seconded by MG.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">For</td> <td style="text-align: right;">34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Abstention</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Against</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5</td> </tr> </table> <p>A request for subscriptions for 2018 will go out early in the New Year.</p>	For	34	Abstention	1	Against	5
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Against	5						
9.	Appointment of Deanery Treasurer						
	<p>No one has stepped up to date. The Rural Dean will contact all Incumbents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Contact all Incumbents Who: Rural Dean</p>						
10.	Safeguarding Training						
	<p>Safeguarding training is very important. All parishes have to have a Safeguarding Officer.</p> <p>Advice has been updated from 6 months ago. It is now a requirement that all PCC members have Safeguarding training. Online training is available.</p> <p>DBS Checks – if you register your DBS Certificate within 2 weeks of receiving it then it can apply to all agencies.</p>						
11.	Any Other Business						
	<p>xxx – churches have been advised to prepare for the future passing of Her Majesty the Queen by having an official portrait, a book of condolence and 500 nightlights. Can the Deanery co-ordinate the purchase of these?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Organise bulk order of Portraits/Books of Condolence Who: Rural Dean to provide details to Deanery Secretary who will co-ordinate</p>						
12.	Closing Prayer						
	<p>The meeting closed with all saying the Grace.</p>						
	<p>Dates for future meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2018 Thursday 1st March Wednesday 20th June</p>						

	Tuesday 23 rd October
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