

ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD

St Albans city parishes

Aldenham – St John the Baptist
Bricket Wood – St Luke
Colney Heath – St Mark
Frogmore – Holy Trinity
London Colney – St Peter
Radlett – Christ Church and St John
Shenley – St Martin

Abbey
Christ Church
St Luke
St Mary, Marshalswick
St Michael with St Mary

St Paul
St Peter
St Saviour
St Stephen with St Julian

ST ALBANS DEANERY STANDING & PASTORAL COMMITTEE with names removed for data protection purposes

MEETING

held at 8.00 pm on Thursday 8th February 2018
at St Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. AL1 5QJ

PRESENT

ST ALBANS DEANERY STANDING COMMITTEE

1 OPENING PRAYERS

The meeting began at 8.00pm with an Opening Prayer led by RD.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from 5 members: -

NB – KP had other meetings to attend so was only available for 15 minutes. Therefore, the meeting Agenda was re-ordered to enable KP to give his input on the DMAP progress before he had to leave. The Minutes of the Meeting are written in the original order for consistency with previous Minutes.

3 MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING held on 12th October 2017

Signed as true representation of the meeting. One Matter Arising – the Deanery Prayer Diary is circulated bi-monthly to all Clergy and Lay Member of Deanery Synod. Church Administrators are included in the list of people to be remembered in our prayers. One Administrator had contacted the Deanery Secretary upon picking up a copy of the Prayer Diary, not knowing what should be done with it. This means that the Incumbent of that parish (and possibly others) is not asking for input on people and activities/events to be included in the Prayer Diary.

**Action – Ask for input from Administrators as well as Incumbents
Who – PA to Rural Dean**

4 DEANERY MAP PROGRESS

RD acknowledged that we cannot work on and achieve all the Goals at once. He therefore invited feedback only on those Goals where progress has been made and individuals present at the meeting to report.

Goal 2 – Funeral Ministry

KP – the leaflet is printed and has been made available. We have had a very good meeting with Phillips Funeral Directors, 10 Deanery members were involved. Building trust is working. We will continue to roll this out, meeting with other local Funeral Directors. KP is on sabbatical from April – June 2018.

Goal 1 – Parish Ministry Support

MS – sent out emails to all the project group via the Deanery Secretary to set up a new meeting with only 3 responses. The meeting is due to take place in the next week. Concentrating on pastoral training, BL is exploring Ministry Support through the Mission Matters initiative.

**Action – MD and BL to liaise on this
Who – MD & BL**

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Goal 6 – Project X-Site for Kids

RD, BL and HK (curate at Radlett) are leading this. 10 people attended the 2nd meeting. Aimed at 7-11 year olds, there is excitement amongst the team about this. The aim is to offer a holiday club, 3 times a year which would be communicated via school assemblies, Sunday schools etc. The project should be good for churches who are struggling to provide Youth-orientated activities.

It needs to be talked about at Synod to gain more volunteers to help organise and run it. The Planning Team is almost in place. Harpenden X-Site is helping. The Planning Team would like each parish to have a “Point of Contact” who is willing to liaise, recruit and help run the event on the day.

JP – could it be tied in with Holy Trinity’s Life Expo experience? It is aimed at the same age group.

MD – churches with strong Youth teams help those without, lifts to and from the event.

KP – we need to know more detail of what is involved and included in the event.

KH – what is the format for it? What should we expect?

AS – Transport, especially minibuses, may require insurance which the Deanery does not hold.

Action – investigate insurance requirements for Deanery events
Who - AS

Goal 7 – Communications Team

MF – have not progressed much since Synod where tried to obtain input and take a new direction.

Newsletter – Deanery and parishes could use this to advertise events and activities but there is neither the time nor the resource to do this at present.

Facebook – at a recent Readers’ Meeting, churches outside the Deanery are using Facebook very effectively for Parish communications. This could be adapted to form the basis for Deanery communications.

JP – would you have to sign up to Facebook to be able to access the Deanery page? MF – Yes. JP – I for one would not sign up for Facebook (or any social media site) so I would not be able to access it.

RD – we would still need to provide paper copies. St Julian’s and St Luke’s, Bricket Wood both print off paper versions of SeeRound for people to read.

AS – the Parish Magazine for St Stephens with St Julian, we distribute 200 printed copies each month and only have 20 online subscribers.

Action – Go through feedback and work out possibilities
Who – MF

Goal 8 – Deanery Directory

RD – Printed and distributed.

Goal 9 – Deanery Prayer

Deanery Pentecostal Prayer – 2-3 churches directly involved, limited attendance at Christ Church, St Albans. Jeremy and Team felt it went well.

5 Deanery Synod Finances

AS continues to act as Deanery Treasurer despite having stepped down last March.

- Requests for Lay Member subscriptions have gone out, but it is too soon to expect any payments.
- All parish Treasurers have been notified that the role of Deanery Treasurer is vacant.
- There is no specific Budget
- Draft Accounts
 - £1,218 surplus carried into 2017
 - £2,045 surplus carried into 2018

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1 parish is only paying 50% subscriptions owed until the Deanery starts to pay out for budgeted items on the DMAP.

Vacancy – Deanery Treasurer.

AS assured Standing Committee that he is going nowhere so will continue until someone is appointed.

PH – is “Treasurer” off-putting to potential candidates? Would book-keeping, financial administrator or something similar be more attractive?

AS – the role is very straightforward, the Accounts do not require an Accountant to audit them, a church Treasurer to check them and confirm they are fine.

It takes up perhaps half an hour per month; AS wrote 2 cheques for Deanery last year; requesting payment of Lay Member subscriptions is the most onerous task each year.

**Action – Recruit new Deanery Treasurer
Who – RD & AS**

6 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

RD – GDPR come into effect in May 2018 and are causing much concern. RD carried out survey of Incumbents – 2 said they understood what is involved and all is fine, the remaining 14 are in the dark.

KH – St Albans is not the only Diocese that is not prepared for implementation. The Diocese of London is taking a very interesting approach.

RD

Database for ordinary, everyday contacts – may want to contact requesting permission to remain on database
Elected to role – no longer give freely because it goes with the role

Therefore, you may have to send out 2 separate Data Privacy notices.

7 MOTION TO GENERAL SYNOD

Draft Motion drawn up by Simon Baynes (SB) and AS circulated to all ahead of the meeting. Church House had come back with a revised version which is much shorter, this was handed out at the meeting for all to review.

KH – could not support SB draft

MD – agreed. PCCs do not necessarily have the expertise.

KH – PCCs may have an axe to grind

Interim Minister to run parish during the vacancy

PH – the Rural Dean is there to have oversight of a parish during any vacancy

AS – this is useful insight into what SB and I have written. Purpose was to put PCCs more in control of the timetable – whether to fill the vacancy as soon as possible, in a year’s time or in 2 years.

KH – it reads as though PCCs would be given more power, I do not like the management analogy, plus parishes need time to let go of the outgoing incumbent before taking on the new one.

RD – the document does not emphasise choices

AS – read out feedback that BL had emailed to him. In effect BL said that the information SB and AS working from is out of date – there is now much in place so that process of replacement starts before the outgoing vicar has left. AS stated that, when SB spoke with the Archdeacon ahead of drafting the motion, no mention was made of the points that BL has raised.

RD – does this need to go to General Synod now or would that be too rushed?

- Space between leaving and installation

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- Grief
- Think new way
- Give choice to parishes that are losing their way
- Obtain views from Deanery Synod

**Action – work on Motion before presenting to Deanery Synod
Who – SB/AS**

8 PARISH SHARES REVIEW

AS – I should have convened a meeting of all Treasurers but have not done so yet. Mid-February is a bad time to try as they will all be balancing books. I will aim to set up a meeting after Easter.

PH – does the Diocese have anyone looking into this?

RD – Diocese does a triennial review and sets out the total amount each Deanery is expected to pay

AS – it is up to Deaneries to decide how to split the total between parishes.

9. WEBSITE UPDATE

AS – the website is up and running as mentioned previously. Minutes of Standing Committee and Synod meetings are uploaded for people to view.

JP/MD – redacted versions only should go online with initials only. For Data Protection purposes, full names should not be listed.

**Action – redact names from all Minutes currently online
Who - AS**

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT DEANERY SYNOD

- Appointment of Deanery Treasurer
- Update on DMAP Project progress
- Motion of Diocesan Synod – proposal for vacancy
- Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group – pilgrimage starting July. Quentin Keeling
- Retirement of Assistant Rural Dean
- Diocesan Elections

AS to take Hall Hire Charges to next DSIT meeting. KP said at outset of this meeting that St Michael's is happy for Deanery to use their halls free of charge.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

There being no other business the Rural Dean closed the meeting with all saying The Grace.

Date of Next Standing Committee – 16th May 2018 – St Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane