

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

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Deanery Synod
held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 20th June 2018
at St Peter’s Church, St Albans.

PRESENT

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance – 37 Members recorded. No representatives from St Mary’s, Marshalswick recorded. All other parishes were represented.

Advanced Apologies received – 21 Apologies on the night – 4

Abbreviations used: DSSC – Deanery Synod Standing Committee
DMAP – Deanery Mission Action Plan DSIT – Deanery Synod Incumbents and

Treasurers

1.	Welcome to St Albans Deanery Synod
	The Lay Co-Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting which began at 8.00pm. She thanked St Peter’s for hosting the meeting.
2.	Welcome to St Peter’s Church, St Albans.
	<p>Revd in turn welcomed Deanery Synod to St Peter’s. The meeting was being held in the Octagon Room which was built and opened during the 1980’s when Alan Medforth was Vicar. It has been a useful space and well-used however, St Peter’s is now looking at how to extend the kitchen and update the toilet facilities. Mark ended his brief introduction by thanking the team who had provided the refreshments.</p> <p>The Rural Dean led Synod in Opening Prayer. Firstly, he remembered Michael Patrick, former Deanery Treasurer, who died recently. The Rural Dean then read an excerpt from the Sermon on the Mount – <i>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”</i> As a Deanery, we pray for guidance on what we are building for and to understand the qualities and values of our Lord’s Kingdom.</p> <p>The Rural Dean then lead prayers with all joining in the Lord’s Prayer.</p>
3.	Minutes of the last Deanery Synod Meeting – 25th April 2018
	<p>The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 25th April 2018, were accepted as a true representation by the members with 1 Abstention and signed by the Rural Dean.</p> <p>Matters Arising – the Motion agreed at Deanery Synod on 25th April was presented at Diocesan Synod on 16th June. Diocesan Synod passed the Motion and it has been referred to General Synod, no date has yet been set for it to be debated.</p>
4.	Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP) – Project Plan Update
	Goal 1 – Parish Ministry Support – The aim of the team is to help parishes learn from one another, share

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experiences and ideas, establish 2-way communication between Deanery and Parishes and strengthen relationships between parishes. xxx reported that the team have met twice and held good discussions. Due to time constraints, both meetings were busy. It was recognised that a great amount needs to be done without reinventing the wheel. Initial thoughts include:

- what can the team do that the Clergy can't;
- several churches want to run an Alpha course, would it be helpful to pool resources and run 1 Alpha course at Deanery level with vicars of the churches involved running one session each
- Healing services
- Love of God – the desire to grow spiritually and numerically

The team are keen to hear feedback from parishes via their Deanery Reps – what is going well, what are they struggling with, where would they like help?

5th September 2018 – open invitation to all Deanery Reps to attend the next team meeting. It will be held at 11am in the coffee shop at Burston's Garden Centre.

The Lay Chair is part of the team. She asked if it would be useful for Lay Members of Deanery to have regular "Lay Reps" meetings so that members could get to know each other, build relations and share ideas, perhaps meeting 3 times per year on a Sunday afternoon for 1 hour.

- Not Sunday afternoon. Sundays are busy days with Services and family time. Week days would be better
- Each meeting would need to have a purpose, a reason, otherwise it could become a meeting for meeting sake

Goal 3 – Nurturing Vocations – Javaid Iqbal reported that the team is still discussing ideas. To date, proposed projects were already being covered by the Diocese. There are currently 3 members of Clergy on the team, it would be good to have some Lay members.

**Action: Seek Lay members of Nurturing Vocations Team
Who: Javaid Iqbal/Becky Leach**

Goal 4 – Mission Matters – equipping and training. To date the team has not met due to some personal issues of members. Javaid Iqbal will coordinate setting up the next meeting. xxx is to run a Pastoral Training Course in the Autumn. We will need to advertise this across the Deanery to involve as many people as possible.

**Action1: Arrange meeting of Mission Matters team
Who: Javaid Iqbal
Action2: Advertise "Pastoral Training Course"
Who: Becky Leach**

Goal 5 – Reaching Young People. The Rural Dean reported that there is ongoing progress drawing the team together to pool resources and deliver Assemblies to 5 primary schools: Camp; Windermere; Cunningham Hill – Infant and Junior; and Samuel Ryder. None of these are church schools so there is no automatic route in.

Key question is how to engage with the Head Teachers of each school? So far, the Team have not managed to get into Camp School even though one of St Luke's parishioners is on the Board of Governors. By and large, the Team have been welcomed, especially to support staff with RE lessons and Assemblies.

xxx – this Autumn will be witness to the centenary of the Armistice in 1918. There could be possible links to school projects for the Team.

The Rural Dean noted this and said that there are potential links for social events, especially with Samuel Ryder Academy. Camp School has a new Head Teacher – there has been no chance to meet with them yet.

xxx – we could invite Head Teachers from all primary schools to Deanery Synod. Holy Trinity, Frogmore is running Life Expo again next year, so we could link the invitation in with that.

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Goal 6 – Equipping – Reaching Young People

Project X:Site – we need to promote this both now and when schools return in September. There is a lot of advertising material available which has been sent out to all parishes in the Deanery. We aim to get the Fliers out through schools so that they end up in kids’ bags and their parents see them.

First date – 13th October at St Luke’s, St Albans from 6-8pm.

Groups of 10 children led by 3 Adults/Teenagers. There will be 1 hour to talk and plan followed by 1 hour of practical, creative exploration and fun.

xxx of 2:67 Project is leaving the Harpenden X:Site team to run the one in St Albans. It is an ecumenical initiative involving all churches within the Deanery. Long term, the aim is to run 2 events per term, 1 in the North and 1 in the South of the Deanery.

The X:Site Team is looking for:-

- A Refreshments Team Leader
- Safeguarding Officer
- Discussion Group Leaders
- Point of Contact for each church
- X:Site Advocate in each church
- Parents/Adults to take children to and from the event

The X:Site project is intended to support parishes’ efforts to connect with children.

**Action: Fill roles listed above and promote the event
Who: All Deanery Reps (Laitly and Clergy)**

Goal 7 – Communication – xxx thanked everybody for their input at last Deanery Synod. He has now created a Communications website using WordPress (the market leader) and setting up links. The presentation needs to be worked on. When it is more advanced he will ask for people to provide him with content.

There was a query why a new website was being set up when we already have a Deanery Website, albeit in its infancy. The existing Deanery Website is intended for Deanery Representatives only as a resource for Synod dates, Minutes of Meetings, DMAP details etc. The Communications Website is intended as a Parish resource to communicate events, training, vacancies, services etc.

5. Deanery Finances

xxx, despite stepping down as Treasurer last April, is continuing in the role until a replacement is found. He reiterated that the job is very easy, not a great deal is involved, but the Deanery still needs to appoint someone.

Finance Report

£4,200 in the Account at present.

Contributions from parishes is based on their size but it is difficult to know how much to ask for. Two years ago, Deanery Synod agreed a contribution rate from each parish of £50 per elected lay member (whether or not all elected slots were filled by the parish). In 2017 nearly all parishes paid up in full, the same this year. The Standing Committee discussed whether Deanery Synod should request contributions in 2019 so that there is money in the coffers to cover projects or whether to suspend contributions for 1 year.

There was a brief discussion around this.

- Proposed school projects could easily eat into the balance
- Some planned projects have cost much less than budgeted for e.g. Communications as we have opted for a website, not newsletter so there are no printing costs.

Motion put forward by xxx

“That Deanery Synod does not ask for Lay Member contributions for one year, 2019, with the proviso that, if a specific project arises during that year which requires funds, Deanery Synod could request contributions.”

Motion seconded by xxx.

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	Motion carried unanimously.
6.	Parish Matters
	<p>Members broke into small groups for discussion around the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is going well in your Parish? • What are the key challenges? • How could Deanery Synod help/respond? <p><u>Key Points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regularity of worship – people do not attend each Sunday ➤ Volunteering – challenge on people’s time ➤ Messy Church is good for young children but lack of options as they grow older, losing parents from the childcare group. RD – has anyone considered “Reaching New People”, the Fresh Expressions of Church initiative? ➤ Vacancies/Long Term Sickness – could Deanery provide a pool of resources to support parishes affected by this? ➤ Mental Health amongst youngsters – in general, parishes have an ageing population, the majority of children do not grow up attending church regularly, if at all. It is not their fault but feedback from the Deanery Day showed that they are spiritually hungry.
7.	Parish Giving Scheme
	<p>xxx asked for a show of hands – not all parishes are using this scheme.</p> <p>This is a Church of England scheme. The Parish registers, parishioners give by Direct Debit (DD) – monthly, quarterly, annually.</p> <p>1st day – DD taken 10th day – 100% of contributions paid to the Parish Tax relief received with no administration for the Parish. Parishioners can tick a box to have their contribution increase by inflation each year.</p> <p>xxx was totally against the scheme when it was first suggested to him. However, he went with it and has been really pleased. E.g. St Julian’s averaged £135 and is now at £179 without any additional administration. There is no work involved by the Parish to claim the tax relief.</p> <p>For parishioners who give cash when they attend church, means that you only receive when they attend. By encouraging regular DD giving, actively increases donations.</p> <p>The Diocese has opted into the scheme. If you go to the Diocesan website you can obtain information and download information packs.</p> <p>It frees up parish time. Treasurers receive a Report which tells them how much the parish is receiving but not who is giving what.</p>
8.	Biodiversity Projects
	<p>Members had been issued with details of a project ahead of the meeting. This outlines access to part of a £500,000 grant – Training scheme to capture biodiversity in Graveyards/Burial Grounds.</p> <p>St Stephens church had set up a stand showing the work undertaken in their churchyard to create a thriving wildlife environment alongside a peaceful place for prayer and reflection for those visiting the graveyard. An Environment Group was set up about a year ago and a plan of the churchyard made plotting where trees are situated, shrubs and other features. If we do not cherish churchyards, they will not survive. They are not just a solemn place to mourn, but also somewhere peaceful to sit and contemplate. Working with nature can be particularly helpful for people with mental health problems.</p> <p>xxx responded that this project is really exciting. There is both a Mission opportunity to involve the wider</p>

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	<p>community and the spiritual connection between God and the natural environment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Action: Contact all Incumbents – who will act as Environment Officer for the Deanery? Who: Deanery Secretary</p>
9.	Election to Diocesan Synod
	<p>Nominations received 7 Lay members out of a possible 12 places 4 Clergy out of a possible 11 places</p> <p>Therefore no elections needed to take place. The nominees were duly appointed and notified by the Deanery Secretary.</p>
10.	Synod Reports
	<p><u>General Synod</u> To be held at York commencing 6th July. Opening address to ecumenical guests of the German Evangelical Church followed by the Presidential Address by the Archbishop of York.</p> <p>Saturday Morning – Safeguarding Afternoon – Seminars and workshops</p> <p>Sunday Morning - Service at York Minster Afternoon – various group talks/discussions on the Environment; Ethical Investment; and Ethics in the Nuclear industry</p> <p>Monday Morning – tbc Afternoon – Long term sustainability of the NHS. Task Force by the Archdeacons</p> <p>Tuesday Morning – Administration Afternoon – Amendments to Standing Orders. Private member’s motion on Homelessness</p> <p><u>Diocesan Synod</u> Bishop’s Address followed by announcement of this year’s Harvest Appeal “Give Peas a Chance”, centred on Malawi.</p> <p>Synod is looking for more Black and Ethnic minority members as these groups are under-represented.</p> <p>The motion from St Albans Deanery Synod was received, discussed and passed. The Diocesan Secretary will notify General Synod so that it can be timetabled for debate.</p> <p>There was an address by the Arch-Deacon of St Albans on “Advertising and Gambling” specifically relating to advertising aimed at 11-18 year olds through their mobile phones.</p> <p>The Diocesan Ministry & Pastoral Committee has been disbanded. Its responsibilities/remit will be taken up by the Bishops’ Council. Paid positions have not changed, the structure has been slimmed down. At present it is not known how much support will be needed, Area Deans are expected to pick up some of the work.</p>
11.	Any Other Business
	None
12.	Closing Prayer

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	The meeting closed with all saying the Grace.
	Dates for future meetings <u>2018</u> Tuesday 23 rd October