

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS

<http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online>

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 Thursday 28th February 2019
at Christ Church, St Albans

PRESENT

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance – 30 Members recorded and 2 Guests plus the Guest Speaker. No representatives from Bricket Wood, St Luke; Radlett, Christ Church & St John; or Shenley, St Martin recorded. All other parishes were represented.

Advanced Apologies received – 18 Apologies on the night – 7

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

1.	Welcome to St Albans Deanery Synod
	<p>The Rural Dean welcomed everybody to the meeting which began at 8.00pm. He introduced Revd David Jones from the Fresh Expressions team who was the evening's Guest Speaker. A warm welcome was extended to the Revd Patricia (Pat) Jones, London Colney, St Peter, who was attending her first Synod since her appointment. He thanked Christ Church for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>In a departure from the norm, the evening's meeting was divided into 2 parts – Part 1, open to all, including non-members of Synod; Part 2 to cover Deanery Synod business and for members only. Guests were welcome to stay for Part 2 of the meeting but would not be able to vote on any motions.</p>
2.	Welcome to Christ Church, St Albans.
	<p>Revd Jeremy Follett, vicar at Christ Church, has been on long-term sick leave. He is now returning to work on a phased-recovery plan. The Rural Dean therefore welcomed everybody to Christ Church on his behalf and asked that members and guests hold Jeremy in their prayers. He also asked that they remember Revd Canon Javaid Iqbal as he was absent, following a bereavement.</p>
	PART 1 – Open Presentation
3.	Reaching New People (RNP) – Talk by Revd David Jones, Fresh Expressions Project Co-ordinator
	<p>David Jones thanked St Albans Deanery Synod for inviting him to speak. RNP has been going for 1 year. To date, the project has been working with a large group within the Diocese of St Albans. David Jones' area is the Archdeaconry of St Albans and he would welcome the opportunity to meet with PCCs and congregations within St Albans Deanery.</p> <p>To begin with, he asked people to break into small groups to discuss "What is your prayer for this Deanery?".</p> <p>Responses/ideas following this discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good communication within the Deanery• Work together effectively• Grateful for younger members of the congregation/community; how to approach young people in a

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS

<http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online>

way that is relevant to them, new perspectives

- Growth – demographic, faith
- Integration – Deanery, the Diocese, across the Country.
- Strong parishes support smaller ones, especially during time of Vacancy

David Jones thanked everyone for their responses. Prayer is the key thing, the RNP project is underpinned by it. The RNP project is embedded into the Diocesan Vision

Going Deeper Into God

Transforming Communities

Making New Disciples – one initiative of this is the Reaching New People project

In its first year, the RNP project has worked with over 900 people. Their aim is to support churches, to help them assess what is working, which ideas/plans to put on the back burner and which ones to proceed with. They have found that, as they put some things down, others come to life. The overarching goal is to look at ways to reach people who do not come to church yet.

How? By listening to what is going on in our communities. For example, Messy Church. How do we then develop that experience for young people so that they become new disciples and bring the sacrament to them?

David Jones then showed a short video on one church's approach to encouraging children and young people into church through games and play-based activities.

Following the video, David Jones then asked people to speak with the person next to them and find 3 things that they have in common with each other. Members and guests fed back following a brief discussion.

David Jones stated that RNP is as simple as that

- Find out what you have in common
- Gather people who are like-minded
- Spend time together, develop relationships
 - Knitting club
 - Running club
 - Vintage Messy Church etc

RNP offers 6 ways to support churches.

- I. Training is broken down into 3 modules – Explore, Integrate, Engage. During this process the RNP Co-ordinator and the PCC will work out how best to start a Fresh Expression within their church.

RNP Cycle

Explore

1. At the beginning
2. Listening

Integrate

3. Loving and serving
4. Building community

Engage

5. Evangelism/Discipleship
6. Church taking shape
7. Doing it again

You can have a great idea but it goes nowhere. But, if you have a good idea and share it with others, it grows and develops. E.g. Running Club – pray together then run, hang out with like-minded people, listen, love, build community, grow and learn their stories.

1-4 in the cycle – we can all do these amazingly. Research has shown that making the leap from 4 to 5 is very difficult.

What is your Fresh Expression going to look like?

Evangelism/Discipleship – Reading the Bible, Praying, Sacrament. This has to be in the DNA of the

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS

<http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online>

Fresh Expression otherwise people will get to 4 in the RNP Cycle then stop and say “I didn’t sign up to this” and drop away. Plant seeds at the outset e.g. Messy Church, have a Prayer Box at the side.

- II. Indicator Pack to help gauge the age-range and demographic currently attending your church. This can be used to monitor the impact and success of the Fresh Expression.
- III. Consultancy
- IV. Learning Community Vicars, Clergy, Laity can all be involved
- V. Coaching How do you move on, develop skills?

David Jones provided a list of forthcoming events – training, prayer, webinars. Full details can be accessed via <http://reachingnewpeopletraining.eventbrite.co.uk>

Incidentally, research shows that advertising events is more effective when stories/experiences are included. 20% data of the event, 80% sharing people’s stories.

David Jones then showed a presentation slide with various “traffic signs” on – Stop, Go, Crossroads, Multiway Signpost (destinations – Lost, Confused, Unsure, Unclear, Perplexed, Disoriented, Bewildered), No Entry, U-Turn, Traffic Lights, Old People Crossing. He asked people to discuss 2 questions

- a) Where is your parish at the moment?
- b) What one thing would help you to move on from here?

Feedback

- Sometimes it is good to “Stop”, just be and listen
- Share – good things, mistakes, experiences
- Different things suit different people
- How do we give confidence to people?

David Jones thanked people for their input. He stressed that we do not want to fail as people, but if you look at Athletes, Sport People and Businesses it is often their failures that make them. Experiencing hard times or failing to reach a goal brings new insight and instils them with the determination to do better next time.

Most people who go to church have grown up in the church environment and the rest of the world is not like that. We forget to ask people to come to church.

Lent – think of 3 people you know who are not Christian, pray for them daily at 3pm for 3 months.

Guides and leaflets were available at the back of the Hall for people to take away with them.

The Rural Dean thanked David Jones for his thought-provoking presentation. He opened the meeting to questions.

David Jones was happy to take any questions. If people preferred to email him directly, he could be contacted via djones@stalbans.anglican.org

Q. You must have experience of many different styles of church?

A. Every place is different.

e.g. Shenley Forest Church – meets once a month in the Forest, using the environment, the size of the congregation has grown

Luton – Footballers meet to pray and read Scriptures before they play

St Saviour’s – this church did lots of listening and mapped out the parish. They realised there was no pub so have set up a Beer Festival. They market themselves as a place for Baptisms, Christenings and for Prayers.

Listen to your community

Q. Fresh Expressions outside of Sundays?

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS

<http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online>

	<p>A. Look at your area, Consultancy could help with this. e.g. Radlett – runs a Messy Café on a Wednesday, drop in after school. This runs three times a month then there is a Messy Church once a month on a Sunday.</p> <p>Q. 90% of my friends live a Christian life; 30% attend church occasionally; 30% pray occasionally; 10% attend regularly. 50% wonder why I go to church, they do not see the point of it. Aside from the spiritual reward, I would like to know how to explain to them that the church needs their money to enable it to continue its work. We need a Stewardship Scheme for them to sign up to and pay by direct debit, even if they do not attend church.</p> <p>A. David Jones said he would offer support on this point.</p> <p>The presentation ended with thanks.</p>
	<p>PART 2 – Deanery Business</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Minutes of the last Deanery Synod Meeting – 23rd October 2018</p>
	<p>The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 23rd October 2018, were accepted as a true representation by the members and signed by the Rural Dean.</p> <p>Matters Arising –None. There were no queries relating to the Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on 31st January 2019.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Report on X:Site and Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP)</p>
	<p>Goal 2 – Funeral Directors. Assistant Rural Dean, reported that the team continues to work to improve relations with local Funeral Directors. There had been 2 recent meetings. Chapter continues to look at ways to further this. The leaflet that was produced has been well received, some Funeral Directors have taken loads of copies. Kenneth asked members to consider other places within their Parish which could stock these leaflets e.g. GP surgeries, Nursing Homes. The aim is to break down myths that Church funerals have to be solemn and impersonal.</p> <p>The Deanery Directory 2nd Edition has been produced. Due to cost, it has not gone out to everybody in Deanery Synod, only to Officers, Administrators, Incumbents etc.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Deanery Directory 2nd Ed emailed to all members of Deanery Synod Who: Deanery Secretary</p> <p>Goal 6 – Equipping – Reaching Young People X:Site. The second event took place on Saturday 2nd February and was held at St Luke’s, St Albans. Two hours of faith-led fun for 7-11 year olds. There was a slip up promoting the event in a timely manner which will be addressed for the next event. The Rural Dean hopes that all parishes will promote X:site as one part in the toolkit of the churches across the deanery, helping all churches to engage with young people. Each parish is helping to fund this through the deanery synod subscription.</p> <p>45 young people attended with 21 helpers from 12 churches. It would be useful to have more helpers at future events. The event went very well, much more energy than the first one.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Deanery Website - http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online</p>
	<p>xxx gave an update on the Deanery website. Minutes of all meetings are now uploaded onto the website (with names redacted for privacy). Also, Hall Hire details have been added with links through to individual parish websites. He asked that members review this and check that the details are correct. He suggested that parishes may wish to add the Deanery website link to their own website and perhaps links to other church halls.</p> <p>Communications – the Standing Committee have been discussing the best way to communicate across the Deanery. zzz and others have been working on a Communications Website. Standing Committee agreed to seek feedback from Synod on the best way to communicate, the preferred method. A survey was emailed to all members ahead of tonight’s meeting. Members were asked to hand their completed surveys in. The</p>

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS

<http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online>

	Rural Dean and Standing Committee will analyse the feedback and work out what it is best to do.						
7.	Parish Matters						
	<p>Last June members were asked for their feedback on Parish Matters. This was based on 3 questions: What is going well? What are the key challenges? How could Deanery Synod best help/support?</p> <p>From the feedback, the Rural Dean has distilled the areas where Deanery Synod could best support parishes. He presented a visual graphic of the outcomes from Members' discussions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young People - Attendance - Outreach <p>These 3 areas are the key challenges faced by parishes. Focusing on Outreach the challenges are "What works" vs "What doesn't work", how to ascertain this in a timely fashion without wasting resources?</p> <p>The Rural Dean asked if Synod would be interested in holding a workshop on Mission Outreach, led by Kate Peacock? All present expressed interest. The workshop to last approximately 2 hours and be open to Clergy and Laity. A quick show of hands to see whether evenings or weekends would work best. Majority would prefer a Saturday morning – 9am Breakfast with the workshop starting at 9.30am.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Organise workshop on Mission Outreach led by Kate Peacock Who: Rural Dean/Deanery Secretary</p>						
8.	Finances						
	<p>ccc gave a summary of the annual accounts for the Deanery bank account.</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Starting Balance</th> <th style="text-align: center;">End Balance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cashflow</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£1,970</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£4,550</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Overall outgoings only amounted to c£2,000 including costs for X:Site events, website and the Deanery Directory. Fees for Lay Members were waived this year. What contribution would be asked from parishes in the following financial year will be looked at during the next meeting of Deanery Synod.</p> <p>The Deanery Bank Account still needs to be changed. There was a brief discussion on possible options on the type of account that would be most suitable. Whilst each parish is registered as a charity, the Deanery is not. The Deanery is therefore a group of charities therefore an account for a non-charitable Club or Organisation may be appropriate.</p> <p>Q. To zzz, there was an action from last Deanery Synod that zzz would look at how other Deaneries work out the breakdown for Parish Shares. A. zzz had made enquiries into this and had been told that other Deaneries all use the standard Rules. There was therefore no precedent for an alternative approach for him to investigate.</p>		Starting Balance	End Balance	Cashflow	£1,970	£4,550
	Starting Balance	End Balance					
Cashflow	£1,970	£4,550					
9.	Biodiversity Projects						
	<p>Revd vvv is away on Extended Study Leave until the end of March 2019. The Deanery Secretary therefore provided a brief update in her absence.</p> <p>Session Planning Questionnaires were emailed to all Incumbents, PCC Secretaries and Church Administrators on 2nd November 2018 with chaser email on 14th December. 4 parishes completed the Questionnaire – The Abbey; St Mary's Childwickbury; St Peter's London Colney; and St Stephen's. George, the BBG Co-ordinator's, initial thoughts are that they could run 2 sessions, one at St Peter's and another at St Stephen's. She is contacting the churches directly to obtain more detail before coming back to us.</p> <p>St Luke's Bricket Wood and St Luke's St Albans both responded that they do not have a churchyard/burial ground. St Paul's also responded likewise however, xxx of St Paul's is also a Trustee of St Albans "Festival of Sustainability". She is keen for St Paul's to be involved in the BBG Project anyway and to promote the</p>						

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS

<http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online>

initiative through the Festival (11th May to 1st June 2019 in St Albans, Harpenden and across the villages).

Below, part of the response received from St Stephen's showing their work to date and eagerness to be involved.

"Our parish is a member of Caring for God's Acre and is also working towards the Ecochurch award, and we would very much like to be involved. We think St Stephen's might be an ideal base for a course since it is easy to find, has a good carpark and church hall for facilities and has a large churchyard close to a designated green open space which is close to the Conservation area of the city. We are, however, at the beginning of the process of recording the biodiversity of our churchyard and are still at the stage of establishing a compost heap, for example. We hope to involve our congregation and youth groups during the process of developing a management plan for the churchyard, and we hope that by taking part in this project we will be able to learn from others in the Deanery how best to do this".

Actions

- **Chase George for a response following recent contact**
- **Agree Sessions to be run and where**
- **Liaise between 4-5 parishes that wish to be involved so that we have 15 people per session.**
- **If appropriate, advertise the Sessions across the Deanery as individuals from other parishes may be interested in attending even though their church may not have a burial ground**

Who: Deanery Secretary

10. Synod Reports

General Synod

xxx, General Synod Rep, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. zzz kindly provided a brief summary of the outcomes from the recent meeting.

"Discipleship and Evangelism" was a key theme for this General Synod. This covered many areas, including the renewal of ministry and mission in housing estates, the importance of chaplaincy among Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities, and the growing of faith with young people and in our schools.

The Bishop of St Albans motion to reduce the pervasiveness of gambling advertising was carried unanimously. This usefully also shone a light on the digital world being a public space to which the Church has a duty of care. Legislative business included simplification for multi-parish benefices and the approval of simpler parish and synodical Church Representation Rules to follow later in the year. Unfortunately, a motion to remove secrecy from the voting process of the Crown Nomination Committee was lost.

The Synod spent some valuable time on the latest thinking from the Pastoral Advisory Group, a group chaired by the Bishop of Newcastle holding the task of supporting and advising dioceses on pastoral actions that are in line with the Church's current teaching, with a particular, but not exclusive, focus on same-sex couples. The group has produced some excellent principles for living well together, which invite church communities to examine afresh their life together. Although their focus relates to LGBTI+ people, they equally apply to all that the Church does and its relationships, recognising the inherent difference and diversity among all God's people. The principles speak of six pervading evils that impact the quality of our relationships: prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy and power. It is intended the group's work will be cascaded through to parishes and I encourage PCCs to engage with it when it is. The material is fully accessible on the Church of England website www.churchofengland.org/PAG

xxx, who could not be with us this evening, would also have mentioned our Deanery motion on the simplification of the vacancy process. This has of course now also been passed by our own Diocesan Synod and so is now in the queue of Diocesan Synod motions awaiting debate at General Synod. The Archbishops' Council have usefully made reference to it possibly coming under a future Legislative Reform Order at General Synod in their recent consultation exercise. Legislative Reform Orders are a new mechanism available to General Synod to ease the passage of legislative simplification. How long the Archbishops' Council will take to consider the various responses and to report back is anyone's guess. This might be this July 2019, perhaps in February 2020. We'll keep the members of Deanery Synod posted when new information comes available

DEANERY OF ST ALBANS
<http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online>

	<p><u>Diocesan Synod</u> There has been no meeting. Diocesan Synod will next convene on 9th March 2019.</p>				
11.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Holy Trinity, Frogmore, is looking to hold a First Aid Course. Would any other parishes be interested in holding a joint training session? Christ Church, St Albans confirmed that they would.</p> <p>Life Expo – Holy Trinity, Frogmore, will be hosting this event again from Monday 18th March to Friday 22nd March. Aimed at Year 5 & 6, this is an interactive experience for children to learn about Christianity. Anyone interested in visiting the Expo to see what it involves can do so, however, they need to email in advance for Safeguarding purposes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Email members with details of Life Expo and contact email address Who: Deanery Secretary</p>				
12.	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p>The meeting closed with all saying the Grace.</p>				
	<p>Dates for future meetings (all with 8pm start time)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2019</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Wednesday 12th June</td> <td style="width: 50%;">St Luke, Bricket Wood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 22nd October</td> <td>St Luke, St Albans</td> </tr> </table>	Wednesday 12 th June	St Luke, Bricket Wood	Tuesday 22 nd October	St Luke, St Albans
Wednesday 12 th June	St Luke, Bricket Wood				
Tuesday 22 nd October	St Luke, St Albans				