

## ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD

### *St Albans city parishes*

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

### ST ALBANS DEANERY STANDING & PASTORAL COMMITTEE

**MEETING** held at 8.00 pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
at St Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. AL1 5QJ

#### PRESENT

##### Ex officio

##### **Rural Dean**

RD - Revd Mark Slater

##### **Lay Co-Chair**

MD - Meriel Dixon

##### **Treasurer**

PF – Pam Fox

##### **Secretary**

JP – Julia Pyburn

##### Parish Reps

AS – Andy Sharp

CRD – Revd Cllr Robert Donald

KP – The Revd Kenneth Padley

MF – Mike Ford

PH - Philip Habershon

BL – Revd Becky Leach

KH – Revd Kylie Hodgson

RN – Ritah Namakula

#### 1 OPENING PRAYERS

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

#### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from 2 members: -

Pam Fox

Julia Pyburn

#### 3 MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of Synod held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were reviewed.

#### 4 MATTERS ARISING

##### **Standing Committee**

Item 6 – Caroline Godden had been invited to speak at the next meeting of Synod.

Item 7 – the costs of the radio microphones had been circulated.

##### **Synod**

The results of a survey on mission have been circulated: RD is finding a suitable date for a meeting to review these.

#### 5 COMMUNICATIONS

26 replies had been received from the 30 members of Synod present at the last meeting. Respondents generally agreed with the need for a monthly emailed newsletter containing brief items with links to full content. Sharing parish and deanery news was seen as important.

Noted that the printed newsletter prepared by RD at the end of last year had been well received. An option was to expand the Deanery Prayer Diary: currently this received little input from recipients (clergy and lay members of Synod). More news, especially topics for prayer, was needed. There would be more incentive to add news if it was expanded from a Prayer Diary into Deanery News and Prayers.

The frequency of any Deanery publication was discussed, with two or three issues a year being suggested. The less frequent it is, the more thinking ahead will be necessary on event dates.

## ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD

There was enough money for production costs to be remunerated: two people with skills in publishing were to be approached (RD, BL). It was also important to have someone who could chase and write up news items. MD asked if we had been surprised by the results. Generally no – people are willing to receive news, but there is limited interest in providing it.

It was agreed that we work towards producing two/three issues and assess the next steps in the light of that.

### 6 DEANERY SYNOD RULES

A consultation document had been received from General Synod: this would be put on the agenda of the June Synod meeting to encourage members to respond.

### 7 BEAUTIFUL BURIAL GROUND PROJECT

Two training sessions have been fixed for 21st September – at St Peter's, London Colney between 10 and 12:30; and at St Stephen's between 1:30 and 4pm. Each could accommodate 15 people. Six parishes had so far expressed interest in attending: they would receive priority in booking places but all parishes will be invited to submit nominations next month.

### 8 ELECTORAL ROLL NUMBERS

While some parishes had not yet returned their Electoral Roll Certificates for the year, those that had had (unsurprisingly) recorded falls of anything from 7% to 33%. KP noted that there had been a lot of 'churn': the population on the roll was changing quite significantly with each revision. This was interesting and useful: people moving away or dying were being replaced by newcomers.

### 9 TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer had reported no change in the bank balances from last time (£2646), although a small cheque needed to be signed and another needed to be banked. She was still investigating alternative banks and would probably recommend Lloyds.

2019 was a Jubilee Year when no subscriptions from parishes were sought to cover Deanery expenses. The level of subscription to be sought next year needed to be considered: RD would consider plans for expenditure next year and discuss this with the treasurer.

### 10 PASTORAL MATTERS

- The induction of the new vicar of Colney Heath, Revd Caroline Keightly, will take place on 12th September. RD and MD will be on holiday: it was suggested that Pam Fox be asked to welcome the new vicar on behalf of Synod.
- Two new canons were starting shortly at the Cathedral, and a new precentor was also being appointed.
- New curates will be starting their ministry: at St Peter's (St Albans) and St Stephen's.
- A Diocesan Safeguarding Training for C2 has been arranged for Saturday 20th July, 10am to 1pm. This will be held at Christ Church, High Oaks, St Albans, AL3 6DJ.

This is for the Deanery, in particular all CWs who have not already completed a C2 training, Assistant Churchwardens, Safeguarding Officers, Directors of Music / Choir leaders, Youth and Children's Pastors and anyone with safeguarding leadership responsibilities or responsibility for leading activities involving children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable.

This is including but not limited to:- Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Safeguarding lead on the PCC, Directors of Music / Choir leaders, Youth and Children's pastors, Bishop's visitors, Bell Tower Captains and any ringers who train children and/or vulnerable adults.

C2 is a classroom based, taught module and there is a requirement for those who fall into this category to complete module CO (online) training in preparation

## ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD

This is an excellent opportunity for all to take the opportunity to receive this training in a local venue. At this time there are probably several new Churchwardens and others new to key roles too. SO this really ought to be a priority to encourage all of our Deanery churches to support this and send their key people.

Application is online and can be booked at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/c2-deanery-safeguarding-sfg-20072019-tickets-61993852281>

or through the Diocesan website <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/diocese/safeguarding/>

### 11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DEANERY SYNOD -

- Update on DMAP Project progress
- Deanery Communications feedback report
- Deanery Synod Rules
- Earlier start time for Synod Meetings (Quentin Keeling)
- Report on Public Health Forum (Quentin Keeling)
- Speakers at Deanery Synod
- Pastoral Matters – discussion groups to share good news and challenges
- Biodiversity Project – Burial Ground initiative
- Standard Items – Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising; Finance; Synod Reports – Diocesan and General;

The request for an earlier start to Synod meetings (leading, it was hoped, to an earlier finish) was discussed. A downside would be a reduction in diversity: St Albans is populated heavily by commuters who might find an earlier start time impossible.

It was agreed that, except in exceptional circumstances, RD would ensure that meetings finished by 9:30pm. No meeting would go on after 10pm.

Chris Birch-Evans of STEP is to be invited to speak at the October meeting of Deanery Synod.

### 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

### Date of next meeting of Standing Committee

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September