

**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 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
at St Luke’s Church, Bricket Wood.

**PRESENT**

**ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

Attendance – 39 Members recorded plus the Guest Speaker. All parishes were represented.

Advanced Apologies received – 12 Apologies on the night – 5

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

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome to St Albans Deanery Synod</b>
	The Rural Dean welcomed everybody to the meeting which began at 8.00pm. A warm welcome was extended to the Revd Kim Quak-Winslow, Youth Chaplain at the Abbey, who was attending her first Synod since her appointment and to three new Lay Members elected to Deanery Synod during recent APCMs. He also thanked St Luke’s church for hosting the meeting.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Welcome to St Luke’s Church, Bricket Wood</b>
	Revd Kylie Hodgins, vicar at St Luke’s, welcomed members to the church. Historically, the village of Bricket Wood was a small community in the Hertfordshire countryside where people came to visit at weekends and go to Fun Fairs. Two British Naturist communities were established in the mid-20 <sup>th</sup> Century as well. In the 1930s, St Luke’s Church was built as a sister church to Frogmore, Holy Trinity, it became a parish in its own right in 1981. The church building was actually built in Canada, flat-packed for transportation then erected in situ. It was always intended to be both church and community centre – the complex includes the Doctors’ Surgery; the hall has a sprung floor for dancing and there are kitchen facilities to provide refreshments and enable us to host Lunch Club.  Kylie was installed as Vicar in 2016 and is working to reconnect with the community and build bridges. There are many challenges being faced e.g. Bricket Wood is slowly becoming an extension of Radlett. With its large Jewish population this poses difficulty in reaching new disciples. St Luke’s is doing what it can, when it can. There are some families in the congregation and we are encouraging more through a variety of means – craft, stories etc. Slowly we are beginning to build relationships.  The Rural Dean thanked Kylie for her welcome and introduction, he then led Synod in Opening Prayers.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of the last Deanery Synod Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
	The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2019, were accepted as a true representation by the members and signed by the Rural Dean.  Matters Arising – Page 5 Item 7 – Parish Matters. The Rural Dean is organising a workshop on Mission Outreach to be run by Trevor Withes, Network Group. He will confirm the date shortly, it will probably be in November.

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There were no queries relating to the Minutes of the Standing Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

### 4. Resources and Adult Learning Opportunities at the Cathedral – Caroline Godden

The Rural Dean introduced Caroline Godden to Synod. Caroline is responsible for adult learning at the Education Centre. New facilities have been built and the new Centre is due to open next week.

Caroline thanked Deanery Synod for inviting her to give a talk. Although she had presentation slides, she promised the session would be very interactive.

The Education Centre runs termly projects and hosts events and talks. The Library currently sits in 80 boxes ready to be moved and re-established in the new building. Work is still being completed but the Centre is all set to open next week.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” Mark 28:19

Members were asked to go into small groups to discuss “What does it mean to you/your church community to be a disciple?”. Responses included:-

- The way you live your life
- Learning
- Pupil/student
- Teacher

The word “disciple” comes from the Latin “discipulus” – pupil, student, trainee, follower

Through study and throughout our lives we learn about God, Creation, art, poetry, languages and all sorts of different learning. The first time we hear about the boy Jesus, he is learning

“After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions” Luke 2:46

We are all learning about God and our relationship with Him.

In their small groups, members were asked to discuss “In your church communities, what opportunities do you have currently for learning?”. Responses included:-

- Home study groups
- Sermons
- Youth & Children’s work
- Church Library

Caroline then introduced members to things that the Cathedral has on offer to those in the Diocese:

- Talks – see the website for upcoming
- Workshops and Study Days
- Courses
- Latin & Greek Summer Schools
- St Alban’s Certificate in Christianity – for anyone looking to take a more academic approach to their faith. This is made up of Core Modules and additional short courses
- Discussion Groups
- Opportunities for people new to faith, offering a different perspective
- Craft workshops – finding God within crafts
- Big Sing Festival – felling God’s presence
- 25 years since the “Vicar of Dibley” first aired – looking at Women’s Ministry

Educare – Latin verb – to bring up, rear, to lead out. You cannot bring yourself up. Other people and/or the

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community in which you live do it for you.

Education – God’s community to bring people out, to nurture each other. Bursaries are available to cover the cost of courses.

### Resources

- Monthly copy of upcoming event etc for Parish Newsletters/Magazines
- Monthly e-letter – sign up to receive this.

Q – Is there a Grand Opening planned for the new Education Centre?

A – Yes, it will be on the Feast Day of St Alban, 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Q – Do you offer any courses as a Webinar?

A – We are hoping to soon, looking into options and possibilities.

Leaflets about the new Education Centre and upcoming courses were available at the back of the church for members to help themselves to.

The Rural Dean thanked Caroline very much for taking time out of her very busy schedule to come and speak with us.

### **5. Report on Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP) and X:Site**

Goal 2 – Funeral Directors.

Continuing to build relationships with local Funeral Directors. A question has been put to the local County Councillor regarding protocol. Funeral Directors are not allowed to promote a certain type of funeral (i.e. faith, humanist, secular) however, through discussions it appears that they ask whether people require a religious service and when told no, they offer them the secular route but with hymns and the Lord’s Prayer. This seems to go against guidelines and is being questioned by the Funerals Team.

The Deanery Directory 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition was emailed to all members of Deanery Synod. Some errors were spotted and rectified. The Rural Dean expressed his apologies for errors

Goal 6 – Equipping – Reaching Young People

X:Site. The third event took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and was held at St Luke’s, St Albans. Two hours of faith-led fun for 7-11 year olds. 47 young people attended with 32 helpers. All three X:Site events have been well received; they are working well but not well enough.

Of those who came to help/lead the event

- 22 Anglicans
- 5 non-Anglicans
- 4 from outside the Deanery

Although the event is ecumenical, Anglicans carry it in the main. Roughly half the helpers were from St Luke’s, St Albans, it would be useful to have more help from other parishes. St Luke’s St Albans hosts the event as the church is central however, it is a Deanery event and is there to support all 16 churches.

The Rural Dean sought comments and feedback from members as to whether X:Site works for their parish.

- Are they engaged with it?
- Do they have children within the age group?
- Is it well advertised?
- What potential do they see for it in the future?

The Rural Dean said that his capacity for involvement in the project may reduce. Also, he has one more year as Rural Dean and may not extend his tenure so someone else would have to take up the baton.

Quick show of hands feedback

- How many churches used the printed leaflets to advertise the last X:Site? – most
- How many churches use the promotional video? – 1, St Peter’s, St Albans. 4 others had the

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	<p>technology but did not use it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are the Planning Team doing well? – no comments</li> <li>- The Marketing Team is not working as well as it could.</li> </ul> <p>General Comments from members:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Momentum is not quite there yet but keep going</li> <li>▪ Children are chock-a-block with things to do, it's an extra activity to fit in. Keep it going and we will get there, the kids will pick it up and latch onto it, spread the word amongst their friends</li> <li>▪ The publicity to date has not done much to advertise where St Luke's church is. As a venue it has lots of room so it works well; a map showing where it is and where you can park would be very useful. Make it easy to buy-in.</li> <li>▪ Need to get the Youth and Children's Workers from individual parishes involved; social media and online posts will get the children's attention</li> <li>▪ Deanery level communication – social media champion.</li> <li>▪ X:Site Facebook page?</li> </ul> <p>Q – do you survey those who have attended or helped out for their feedback? A- not yet. Struggling to build the right team and to connect Leaders with children.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Report on Public Health Forum – zz</b>
	<p>Deanery Synod voted for me and xx to represent them on the above group in the October 2018 meeting.</p> <p>I attended my first meeting in December 2018 and introduced myself. This group covers a range of liaison and support activities as a major part of the SADC Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy. Some interesting aspects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Prescribing by GP's and pharmacies of mental &amp; physical activities – walking groups, talking groups.</li> <li>• West Herts Hospital Trust (WHHT) involvement</li> <li>• Young People's Physical Activity (especially the "Daily Mile" initiative)</li> <li>• Keeping Partners (such as the Patient Group, and Mencap) in contact</li> </ul> <p>There has been a second meeting in March 2019. My input to this was to mention activities by the St Albans &amp; District Footpaths Society, and how this may link with Social Prescribing.</p> <p>I also described the forthcoming Pilgrimage Route from St Paul's to St Albans Cathedral; its route on 19th to 21st June, and the hope for an enduring 'Green' pilgrimage route, using half-day stages starting and ending at public transport links (Thameslink, Overground, &amp; Northern Line).</p> <p>Q – How would Deanery members raise ideas/questions? A – Physical Health – please speak with Quentin Mental Health – please speak with Sian We can then take these to the next meeting of the Working Group.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Biodiversity Project – Beautiful Burial Ground initiative</b>
	<p>One year ago Deanery Synod signed up to the BBG Project. Four parishes expressed an interest in holding training sessions to find out how to identify and log the flora and fauna in their churchyards. Of these, the BBG organisers have selected two sites to hold the training sessions. The date set for these is Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September. The morning session will be at St Peter's Church, London Colney. The afternoon session will be at St Stephen's Church, St Albans. A4 posters advertising the event were handed out to all members for them to place in their churches/church halls. Each session has a maximum 15 places and will last about 2 hours.</p> <p>The aim of the training is to give participants the skills necessary to capture the current biodiversity within the churchyard. They can then look at ways to increase the range of flora and fauna. The idea is to then involve community groups and local schools in the project – bug hunts, fungi forages etc – to allow people to engage with the Church and God's creation through the wildlife.</p> <p>Sessions are open to anyone who is interested, no previous knowledge or training is required. Applicants should email the Deanery Secretary to secure their place.</p>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Deanery Communications feedback report</b>								
	<p>The Rural Dean went through the feedback report with members. In brief, most respondents welcomed regular communication from the Deanery (at most, once a month); it should include both parish and deanery-related news; printed format is preferred; if email format is used it could have brief articles with links through to longer content; few people were willing/able to provide content or manage the project.</p> <p>Suggestions from members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requests for articles, events, content should go outside Deanery, down to the Pews. Vicars have their part to play in this.</li> <li>- Printed copies useful, leave at Church</li> <li>- There could be links to existing Parish Magazines</li> <li>- The Diocese produces a Newsletter. Could we tie-in with that rather than re-inventing the wheel and pay someone to manage it?</li> </ul> <p>The Rural Dean is due to meet with someone regarding managing Deanery communications. Deanery may have to pay for this.</p>								
<b>9.</b>	<b>Parish Matters</b>								
	<p>At the Deanery Synod meeting in June 2018, members were asked for feedback on 3 questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is going well in your parish/ministry?</li> <li>2. What are the key challenges?</li> <li>3. How could Deanery Synod help/respond?</li> </ol> <p>The Rural Dean had presented an overview of the main points/issues raised during Deanery Synod in February 2019. He had not been able to pull the detailed report together in time for this evening's meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: Draw up detailed report on Parish Matters feedback</b> <b>Who: Rural Dean</b></p>								
<b>10.</b>	<b>Deanery Synod Rules</b>								
	<p>Members had been given details of a proposal by General Synod to limit the number of terms that lay members can serve on Deanery Synod. Seven possible options were given. There was a lively discussion amongst members on the merits/demerits of the various options. Comments included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- APCMs can disapply the rules therefore go for Option 4</li> <li>- As a new lay member, it took me about 2 years to get my head round Deanery Synod, what it's about and get involved in things. If you limit the number of terms people can serve, you would be losing people just as they have settled in</li> <li>- By limiting the number of terms you encourage new people with fresh ideas</li> <li>- There would be no new places so you would be asking people to stand against existing members</li> </ul> <p>Deanery Synod has no vote in this matter however, General Synod was seeking views. In a show of hands, members said</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Option 1 – 7</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Option 5 – 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 2 – 5</td> <td>Option 6 – 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 3 – 5</td> <td>Option 7 – 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Option 4 – 11</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The General Synod representative thanked Deanery Synod for their input which would be relayed at General Synod in July.</p>	Option 1 – 7	Option 5 – 1	Option 2 – 5	Option 6 – 0	Option 3 – 5	Option 7 – 0	Option 4 – 11	
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<b>11.</b>	<b>Finances – Deanery Treasurer</b>								
	<p>The Deanery Treasurer has been ill recently and was unable to attend the meeting. She had provided the Rural Dean with a brief financial update.</p> <p>Current Balance           £1,573</p> <p>With planned expenditure, this will drop to c£1,500 by the end of 2019.</p> <p>Deanery Synod will need to take a subscription for all Lay Members next year (for all places per parish regardless of whether the places have been filled). The likely amount would be c£30 per Lay Member but</p>								

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	the Treasurer will give a clearer indication at the Autumn Synod. This will enable parish treasurers to plan.												
<b>12.</b>	<b>Synod Reports</b>												
	<p><u>General Synod</u> Details of the February Synod are available on the General Synod website.</p> <p>The next meeting is in July. The Agenda has a legislative aspect. There are also planned workshops and seminars on “Living in Love &amp; Faith”. This format was used and worked well two years ago to encourage discussion and exchange of ideas, there is no debate. Little information has been given in advance of the meeting so members do not know quite what to expect. Other items on the Agenda include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Mission-shaped church</li> <li>• Fresh Expressions, 15 years on</li> </ul> <p><u>Diocesan Synod</u> The last Diocesan Synod was several months ago. It was the first one chaired by Revd Canon Javaid Iqbal. The Archdeacon of Hertford gave a presentation on social media and digitalisation which was followed by a discussion on how to encourage churches to engage with these forms of communication.</p> <p>There was also a presentation on needing new people to join teams, what has been done and ideas on how parishes can transform and plan.</p> <p>Diversity in the Diocese – a presentation on the current diversity, acknowledgement that diversity needs to increase at all levels within the Church.</p> <p>The next Diocesan Synod is on 15<sup>th</sup> June. The Agenda includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finances – the Budget will be presented</li> <li>• Living God’s Love 2025 – Bishop Allan will present, a renewal rather than starting a new initiative</li> <li>• Modern day slavery</li> </ul>												
<b>13.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>												
	<p><u>Speakers at Deanery Synod</u> The Rural Dean has invited Chris Birch-Evans of STEP to speak at Synod in October.</p> <p><u>Earlier start time for Deanery Synod meetings</u> A member had requested that Deanery Synod meetings start earlier, at 7.30pm so that meetings would be finished at latest by 9.30pm. There was a brief discussion around this proposal and a vote taken:-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b>For</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">32</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>Against</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><b>Abstained</b></td> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Motion carried</td> </tr> </table>	<b>For</b>	32	<b>Against</b>	5	<b>Abstained</b>	2	Motion carried					
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<b>14.</b>	<b>Closing Prayer</b>												
	The meeting closed with all saying the Grace.												
	<p>Dates for future meetings (NB - with 7.30pm start time)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"><b><u>2019</u></b></td> <td style="width: 40%;">Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</td> <td style="width: 45%;">St Luke, St Albans</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b><u>2020</u></b></td> <td>Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> March</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> June</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Nov</td> <td>TBA</td> </tr> </table>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	St Luke, St Albans	<b><u>2020</u></b>	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> March	TBA		Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June	TBA		Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	TBA
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