

## 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

#### MEETING

held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
at St Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. AL1 5QJ

#### PRESENT

##### Ex officio

##### **Rural Dean**

RD -

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

MD -

##### **Treasurer**

PF -x

##### **Secretary**

JP -

##### Parish Reps

AS -

CRD -

KP -

MF -

PH -

BL -

KH -

RN -

#### 1 OPENING PRAYERS

The meeting began at 7.30pm with an Opening Prayer led by RD. RD announced that he will be stepping down as Rural Dean in May at the end of his 5 year term. He has written to Bishop Alan and awaits a response. Standing Committee thanked RD for all his hard work and energy, Deanery Synod has changed considerably during his tenure and his efforts are much appreciated. There was a brief discussion around the process for appointing his successor.

RD had another meeting to attend at 8.00pm and MD took over chairing Standing Committee when he left. Agenda items were dealt with out of order so that RD could have input where necessary.

#### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from 2 members: -

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#### 3 MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and MATTERS ARISING

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

Matters arising –

Autonomous Electronic Noticeboards - to date there has been no take up but it was felt that some parishes would be interested over time. Interested people to contact Jeremy Harding at St Saviour's church.

Annual Deanery Newsletter – a new printer had had to be sourced for this as the layout came to 6 pages. This increased the cost to c£250. Copies have been distributed to all parishes within the Deanery.

#### 4 DEANERY SYNOD – ELECTION OF LAY MEMBERS

- Leaflet on "Being a Lay Member of Deanery Synod" – this may need to be updated. **Action: RD & JP**
- New Lay Members will be elected at the upcoming APCMs. Under the revised Rules for Deanery Synods, Lay Members are meant to serve a maximum of 2 terms (6 years) however, PCCs can allow people to serve longer if they wish. **Action: JP to email Election Forms to PCC Secretaries outlining rules**
- Membership of Standing Committee – this would be reconstituted after the elections so membership will be discussed at Deanery Synod in June.

#### 5 FINANCE

## ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD

### Deanery Bank Account

PF reported that the new Lloyds Bank account is now up and running. AS is awaiting final Statement from NatWest and will then close that account.

### Subscription Levels for 2020

Deanery Synod had approved a subscription of £30 per Lay Representative. This applies whether the lay vacancy is filled or not (e.g. where a parish can elect 3 Lay Members but only 2 positions are filled, the parish is still liable to pay 3 x £30 in subscriptions to Deanery Synod). PF is due to send out emails to Treasurers asking for payment of subscriptions for 2020.

### Draft Accounts

PF is waiting for the last NatWest statement so that she can finalise the Accounts. A copy of the Draft document was given to Standing Committee for information. Much of the expenditure has been on X:Site, many of the costs being one-offs as the project was set up. Provisional balance in the account is £541.37.

## 6 CLIMATE CRISIS - SUSTAINABILITY

- Update on meetings/events since Deanery Synod. St Luke's Church, St Albans has a very active environment group called "Hope in Action". They have regular meetings and produced an electronic newsletter with updates, forthcoming events etc. JP has forwarded copies of this to all members of Deanery Synod. Take up from individuals to subscribe to the newsletter has been slow.
- Motion to Diocesan Synod – the Motion passed by Deanery Synod in October that Diocesan Synod agree to sign up to "Eco Diocese" sadly did not make it onto the agenda for Diocesan Synod in March. RD has been told that it will be on the agenda for July's meeting.
- DEO has provided JP with 2 documents outlining Environmental Events and initiatives within the Diocese in 2020. One is a list of events, the other is a Planner showing local, national and international dates of interest. **Action: JP to email both documents to all members of Deanery Synod**

## 7 PRESENTATIONS TO DEANERY SYNOD 2020

- March Synod RD has booked 2 co-speakers – Canon Tim Bull and ANO to speak on New Lay Training Pathway and RNP – Fresh Expressions. Between them they will speak for 30-40 minutes including a Q&A session.
- June Synod – JP to contact Quentin Keeling asking him to invite Louise Bates of the Alzheimer's Society to present in June. This will be on promoting a friendly environment for dementia sufferers. **Action: JP**
- October Synod – CRD advised that a new strategy document has been produced by the Public Health & Well Being group. Hard copies will be available to order, the whole document will be online shortly. DSSC discussed growing concerns about mental health. CRD was asked to invite David Barker, Youth Mental Health champion to present at Synod in October. **Action: CRD to invite David Barker to October Synod.**
- **Action: JP to advise CRD of the number of churches within the Deanery (i.e. not number of parishes).**

## 8 DMAP UPDATE

- Funerals Ministry
  - KP reported (via JP) that there is no further evidence of Registrars promoting secular funeral services so this point can be closed for now. DSSC agreed that the Deanery should remain aware of this and keep an eye out.
  - KH reported (via JP) that there has been a change in the fees for funeral services. The Diocese recently sent out revised figures. Last year, parishes charged £195 for a funeral service, £30 of which went to the Vicar. This year the fee has risen slightly to £199 but there is no payment to the Vicar. BL explained that the £30 was not actually paid to the Vicar but was to cover administrative costs for the Church Administrators and Treasurers. RD confirmed that several people have noticed this issue and it is being raised with the Diocese.
- X:Site – RD reported that the project is going well. Next event is on 1<sup>st</sup> February. There is still a need for additional Leaders and Helpers if X:site is to be viable. RD to raise this at Deanery Synod.

## 9 PASTORAL MATTERS

## ST ALBANS DEANERY SYNOD

- There are no vacancies currently. Revd Canon Tony Hurle is due to retire in October which will create a vacancy at St Paul's Church. As a former Rural Dean (10 years, 1995 - 2005), DSSC agreed that a retirement gift from Deanery Synod would be appropriate.

### 10 AGENDA ITEMS FOR DEANERY SYNOD

- Has there been any follow through by parishes following the presentation by Chris Birch-Evans of STEP – Challenge to Make Connections?
- Review of DMAP Projects at the end of this Triennium – areas completed and those in abeyance
- Deanery Communications – interest/uptake on electronic noticeboards
- Speakers at Deanery Synod – March booked; June and October proposed speakers
- Pastoral Matters – discussion groups? “What are you doing that works?” and “What do you need help with?”
- Sustainability and Climate Change – update on our Motion to Diocesan Synod, SustFest20, Hope in Action group, CTSA Meetings, BBG project.
- Finance – Budget, draft Accounts, Subscriptions, Bank Account
- Standard Items – Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising; Synod Reports – Diocesan and General;
- Training – First Aid, Fire Extinguishers, Defibrilators – DSSC agreed that joint training sessions on these essential skills would be cost effective. As March agenda is already very full and lay membership is due to change because of forthcoming elections, it was agreed that Training be deferred to June meeting of Deanery Synod.

### 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

### 12. CLOSING PRAYERS

The Lay Chair closed the meeting with prayer and all saying The Grace.

### Date of next meeting of Standing Committee

Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	7.30pm
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm