

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 Tuesday 23rd October 2018
at Holy Trinity, Frogmore

PRESENT

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance – 32 Members recorded and 1 Guest. No representatives from Shenley, St Martin’s or St Albans, St Peter’s recorded. All other parishes were represented.

Advanced Apologies received – 18 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 Rural Dean welcomed everybody to the meeting which began at 8.00pm. A warm welcome was extended to the xxx, who was attending her first Synod since her appointment. He thanked Holy Trinity for hosting the meeting.
2.	Welcome to Holy Trinity Church, Frogmore
	<p>xxx welcomed everybody to Holy Trinity. He has been vicar here for 3 years now.</p> <p>The mission is to be a three-dimensional church looking Up to God Out to the Community In to the Family</p> <p> 1 Goal – Father, Son and Holy Spirit 1 Task – create new disciples 1 Family</p> <p>xxx takes inspiration from Matt 28: 18-20 “All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.”</p> <p>He pictures the grapes on the vine and sees Holy Trinity as a growing, organic vine.</p> <p>Positives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good connections with community – Frogmore, Park Street and Colney Street • Toddler Group • Church school • Non-church school • STEP – Secondary schools are all outwith the parish but many pupils live within the parish • Trickle of new people and some new disciples <p>Challenges</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core team is overstretched • Progress is slow • Natural loss of numbers as people move away from the parish <p>The Rural Dean thanked xxx. He had encouraged him to speak about the challenges as well as the positives so that Members from all parishes see that we are all the same.</p> <p>Reading from Mark 4:35ff Jesus asked to be rowed to the other side of the lake, a storm blew up and threatened to overturn the boat so that the Disciples were afraid. Jesus remained calm and put his faith in God.</p> <p>Jesus taught us to remain people of faith through crises. It is easy to remember God when all is going well. Remember Him during your suffering.</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 – 20th June 2018
	<p>The Minutes of the last meeting, held on 20th June 2018, were accepted as a true representation by the members and signed by the Rural Dean.</p> <p>Matters Arising – all except 1 parish have returned updated information for the Deanery Directory. Deanery Secretary to chase.</p> <p>New Diocesan Representatives – Of 11 Clergy Places, 3 have been filled x</p> <p>Of 12 Lay Places, 9 have been filled x</p>
4.	Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP) – Project Plan Update
	<p>The Rural Dean wished to amend the evening’s Agenda by including Item 7 within Item 4.</p> <p>Key Deanery Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To celebrate the faith in Christ that unites us whilst respecting the range and variety of our worship and mission; b. To Communicate and share knowledge, information and news relevant to the Deanery; c. To identify common needs, find and SHARE the resources to respond to them (people, finance, organisations, training); d. To help equip and develop lay and ordained ministries in areas where the Deanery can do more than parishes can alone; e. To GROW a stronger sense of ‘The Deanery’ as community through sharing experiences together <p>Goal 1 – Parish Ministry Support and Goal 4 – Missions Matters are being grouped together to pool resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills forum • Mission Matters seminar • Pastoral visiting training <p>Goal 2 – Funeral Directors Xxx reported that the team had met with Phillips Funeral Directors at St Stephens to discuss their expectations. It was a fantastic meeting and a leaflet has been produced, myth-busting.</p> <p>Alban Funeral Care – Quadrant, the Group FD pulled out at the last minute. However, it was a really good meeting, they asked questions and brought up ideas we had not thought of.</p> <p>Action: Update Deanery Directory so that can be distributed showing contact details and Incumbents’ days off</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Who: Deanery Secretary/Rural Dean</p>

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Goal 3 – Nurturing Vocations – the Diocese have a very good offering so we are dropping this goal for the time.

Goal 5 – Reaching Young People. The Rural Dean is working on a Primary School Assemblies project with his Lay Team. When he has the technology, he will share this across the Deanery.

Goal 6 – Equipping – Reaching Young People

Project X:Site happened on 13th October. Scripture Union first started this which has been run successfully in Harpenden by the 2:67 Project. The St Albans event has been planned for over 1 year and went very well. It was ecumenical with an Advocate from each church to encourage parents, kids and schools to be involved.

Leaflets, posters etc for the next X:Site event will be drafted. Lessons learned regarding getting them distributed well in advance so that churches can advertise the event. Aim to create a link from Messy Church through to Sunday School and beyond.

The Rural Dean showed a video of the event held on 13th October so that members could see the types of activities involved and hear participants’ thoughts and feedback. About 50 children attended with 30 Helpers from 9 churches.

The next X:Site will take place on Saturday 2nd February 2019 at 6pm. Members were asked to promote it in their local schools.

Members gave positive feedback – that the event had gone very well.

St Luke’s Church, St Albans was used for the event as it is central within the Deanery. As the project develops and attendance grows, we will look for other venues.

Goal 7 – Communication – xxx was unable to attend Synod but had provided a brief synopsis of progress to date. He intends to have a workable website for Members to view soon.

Goal 8 – Deanery Directory. All but 1 church have returned their updated Entry Form. Deanery Secretary to chase remaining church. Aim to have the updated Deanery Directory published by the end of November.

The Prayer Initiative has been dropped as it was picked up the Diocese. Deanery will continue with the bi-monthly Prayer Diary.

7. Parish Matters (Moved Up the Agenda)

At the last Synod, Members were asked to consider and discuss 3 things:

- What is going well?
- Key challenges?
- How could Deanery help?

Members had been provided with a copy of the feedback these discussions provided and this was projected onto the screen. The Rural Dean asked Members to break into discussions groups again and asked them “if there was ONE area/topic that we could take on as a Deanery, what would you want us to do?”

Discussion Groups – 10 minutes

Key Points

- Youth – how do we deal with them, keep them interested and involved?
- Volunteers very difficult to find

Attracting and Retaining Young Members (Teenagers to early twenties)

Youth members leave off church when they go to Secondary School or University

Could Deanery provide an expert to deal with Youth, from first contact to Discipleship?

Do any churches have trained Youth Workers?

Not do something just because we can but because it would be useful – concentrate on Youth/X:Site

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	<p>initiatives Training/seminars on Youth Work</p> <p><u>Attendance is dropping off</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fresh Expressions of Church 2. X:Site Plus for older teenagers <p>No parish is currently running a Fresh Expressions project. We are probably the best resourced Deanery in the Diocese.</p> <p>Is Messy Church an example of Fresh Expressions? The original aim of Fresh Expressions was that, whatever initiative you start with will evolve into a separate congregation/worshipping community. This has developed into an “intention to create new disciples” rather than a congregation.</p> <p>Fresh Expressions of Church therefore is anything that offers a new format, new time, new disciples, new community offering. The Diocese is putting huge resources into this.</p> <p>Reaching New People (RNP) – This is a diocesan initiative that encourages innovative mission through developing Fresh Expressions (FX) of church. The team includes: x</p> <p>Get a feel for what is possible, link people up, Blog, webinar or training</p> <p>xxx of the Abbey – working ecumenically during the week, freedom to try new things out, just get on and do</p> <p>Outreach – if work on that, it will lead step by step to the rest</p> <p><u>Church Growth</u> How do we grow? How do we connect with Young People? How do we connect with Working Age Adults?</p> <p>Deanery Outreach – Albantide, Eastertide. There is a Deanery presence but it is not obvious</p> <p>Kate Peacock – “Reaching New People”; “Leading Your Church into Growth” – is one of the diocesan staff available to support churches seeking to grow and developing mission.</p> <p>The Rural Dean encouraged members to email him with other ideas after the meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Deanery Website http://www.stalbansdeanerysynod.online</p> <p>Members had been asked to visit and review the site ahead of tonight’s meeting. xxx reported that the current website has a Home page, Contacts and links through to each of the parish websites. There is a list of Useful People, mainly Tradespeople who have been recommended. Details of Hall Hire needs to be put on and the Business section populated – Minutes of meetings with names redacted.</p> <p>Members were asked to consider whether they want the website to be “Business Only” for the Deanery or “Business and Communications”.</p>
6.	<p>Finances</p> <p>Welcome to xxx our new Deanery Treasurer.</p> <p>For this meeting, xxx provided the Financial Report.</p> <p>2018 – most of the subscription money has been collected from the parishes. Costs have included £185 for the website, £250 for the Deanery Directory. Much of the cost for X:Site was covered elsewhere. There is enough money in the Deanery Account for the mission activities we have in mind. As agreed at Synod, we will not be collecting contributions next year.</p> <p>Parish Shares There have been lots of discussions. The overall cost for the Deanery is set by the Diocese, how the costs</p>

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	<p>are broken down between the parishes is the result of c20 years of horse-trading so there is not rationale as to how costs are allocated.</p> <p>xxx have worked on a new system with a simple formula. If Deanery were to adopt this, some parishes would pay more, a few would pay less then they currently do.</p> <p>Q. Have we looked at models of good practice in other Deaneries? A. No. Good idea.</p> <p>x – Proposed that we look at Best Practice elsewhere and feedback at next Synod x – Seconded</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 27 Against 0 Abstentions 5</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Look at how other Deaneries allocate their Parish Shares Who: Andy Sharp</p>
8.	Biodiversity Projects
	<p>xxx reported that contact has been made with the Beautiful Burial Ground project (BBG). We have been sent a Questionnaire to complete so that the BBG can ascertain our training needs. The Deanery Secretary will send a copy of the Questionnaire to all Incumbents for completion. Each parish to designate a Biodiversity Point of Contact for future correspondence.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Name and Contact Details of Biodiversity Champion from each parish to Deanery Secretary Who: Incumbents</p>
9.	Health & Wellbeing Strategy
	<p>xxx had provided a brief outline of this initiative for all Members ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>Public Health – responsibility is being transferred from the NHS to local authorities – County Council and District Councils.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a) Increase in physical activity to reduce obesity. There are already some practical projects e.g. Watford FC “Shape Up” b) Mental Health improvement – Herts on Prescription, Walley Group.</p> <p>There is a great opportunity for Deanery Synod to be involved in this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Churches/Parishes know about initiatives and issues especially Youth Mental Health - Already running groups in Church Halls and many initiatives will link directly with the Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Let St Albans District Council know. - Someone from St Albans Deanery Synod could be on the Working Group. Deanery has more facilities than most other organisations in the District. The Working Group will meet 3-4 times per year at 5pm for about 1.5 hours. <p>The last meeting took place on 11th October, and details of projects were outlined at this. The role would suit someone with commitment to one of the initiatives who has experience of belonging to a group.</p> <p>xxx belongs to two walking groups and a running group and has contacts with a cycling group. xxx has a keen interest and experience of dealing with mental health problems. Both volunteered to represent Deanery Synod on the Working Group.</p> <p>x</p>
10.	Synod Reports
	<p><u>General Synod</u></p> <p>xxx, General Synod Rep, was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. xxx kindly provided a brief summary of the outcomes from July’s meeting. General Synod had concentrated on ethical issues relating to the Environment, Investment and the sustainability of the NHS.</p>

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	<p>xxx also mentioned a recent talk at Watford Deanery Synod on “Reaching New People”. He suggested that this would be worth arranging as an Agenda item for St Albans next year.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Arrange talk on “Reaching New People” Who: Rural Dean/Deanery Secretary</p> <p><u>Diocesan Synod</u> The Lay Co-Chair reported on the first Diocesan Synod of the new Triennium. Following the recent elections there were 40-50% new Lay Members.</p> <p>Synod commenced with Holy Communion. There was a quick run through of all the Boards and the work that the Diocesan Synod does. Finance matters such as setting stipends and agreeing budgets were dealt with.</p> <p>Revd Canon Javaid Iqbal was appointed as the Chair for the House of Clergy. Deanery Synod congratulated him on this.</p> <p>There was a presentation on Social Media and its use.</p>						
11.	Any Other Business						
	None						
12.	Closing Prayer						
	The meeting closed with all saying the Grace.						
	<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%;">Thursday 28th February</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Christ Church, St Albans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 12th June</td> <td>St Luke, Bricket Wood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday 22nd October</td> <td>St Luke, St Albans</td> </tr> </table>	Thursday 28 th February	Christ Church, St Albans	Wednesday 12 th June	St Luke, Bricket Wood	Tuesday 22 nd October	St Luke, St Albans
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