

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 8.00 pm on Wednesday 6th June 2018
at St Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. AL1 5QJ

PRESENT

ST ALBANS DEANERY STANDING COMMITTEE

1 OPENING PRAYERS

The meeting began at 8.00pm with an Opening Prayer led by RD taken from John 15, "I am the vine...". The RD asked members to consider the work of Synod. We have been committed to developing the DMAP over the last 3 years. Is this still the right focus? Do we need to allow space and time for other ideas?

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from 3 members: -

3 MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING held on 12th October 2017

Signed as true representation of the meeting.

Matters Arising –

1. PA to Rural Dean has been asked to obtain input from Church Administrators as well as Incumbents for the Deanery Prayer Diary.
2. AS has obtained letter from the Diocese confirming that Diocesan Insurance covers Deanery Events. Copy to Deanery Secretary for filing.
3. Motion to General Synod – the Deanery Secretary requested input from DSSC members on what to include in the formal request to the Diocesan Secretary. Deanery Secretary will action this so that the formal request is received ahead of Diocesan Synod on 16th June.
4. Diocesan Elections – paperwork for nominations has been sent to all Deanery Synod members, only 1 query from a nominee has been received to date.

4 DEANERY MAP PROGRESS

RD introduced this item asking members to approach this in terms of "Is there anything Deanery can do to assist?"

Goal 1 – Parish Ministry Support

MD – the team is meeting again on 18th June. Positive start but nothing specific to report until after the next meeting.

Goal 4 – Mission Matters

JI – no real progress to date

Goal 6 – Project X-Site for Kids

RD reported that there is high energy in the team. We need to get more lay people involved still to help spread the word and encourage wider involvement from the Deanery community. Non-Anglican churches have been approached and are already onboard. RD asked for each parish to nominate a Point of Contact(POC) at last Synod. So far only 1 POC has replied.

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Inaugural X:Site will be held at St Luke's Church, St Albans on 13th October 2018. Notify parishes now and remind them again next term. Leaflets have been produced advertising the event.

Action – Make contact with Parish POCs
Who - RD

Goal 7 – Communications Team

MF – it was really useful obtaining the feedback from members at Synod. Now focusing on a Communications Website, if it will sit within the existing Deanery website, it would be good. MF will also be attending Parish Ministry Support meetings as there is specific crossover between their remit and communications.

Action – check compatibility of existing website with proposed one for Communications
Who – MF and AS

5 FINANCE REPORT

- Deanery Treasurer - JP had written a Job Description for Deanery Treasurer which was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. One amendment was requested. When done, the finalised document is to be emailed to JI as someone in his parish is interested. If that does not work out, then a copy to go to Revd xxx).
- Payment of 2018 Subscriptions – all except 2 parishes have paid in full. One parish paid 50% last year and 50% this year saying that they will pay the outstanding amount when Deanery starts incurring costs for DMAP projects. There is £4,248 in the bank account.
- Review of Budget – we are not going to spend all of this amount as a) we have not progressed as far with DMAP projects as we had thought and b) projects we have budgeted for have cost less than we anticipated e.g. printing costs for Funeral Ministry and X:Site. AS suggested that we could suspend subscriptions for 1 year. There was a general discussion
 - Drop subscription to £12.50 (i.e. 25%) as a marker, if you suspend completely you are setting a precedent
 - When some parishes are financially stretched, we should not be asking them for money if we don't need it

Agreed that proposal to suspend subscriptions for one year should be taken to Synod to vote on.

Action – At Deanery Synod, propose suspension of subscriptions
Who – AS

- Parish Share Review update – AS to arrange a DSIT meeting for mid-July. Notice needs to be given and clear objectives/outcomes provided. DC reminded committee that the Diocesan Parish Share committee meets in November and any proposals for changes to Share Factors need to be passed up the chain.

DC – Diocesan Budget Committee has been told to reduce budgets from 4% to 2% yet initiatives such as Fresh Expressions are putting pressure on. The DBC has gone back to the Bishops via the Diocesan Secretary that costs cannot be reduced unless we lose staff. Whether clergy or administrative staff are reduced is up to the Bishops however, the new Safeguarding responsibilities actually increase the need for staff.

RD – plans to written to the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBoF) that the Diocese needs to plan financially more than 1 year in advance. Equally, parishes should flag up sooner when they are in difficulty e.g. agreeing a deficit budget. The DBoF should use the information it receives to alert themselves to potential problems in the Diocese.

Action – Write to the DBoF
Who – RD

PH – Parish Giving Scheme – there has been an increase in the number of parishes using the scheme but the Parish Giving Scheme Coordinator was made redundant so the scheme is no longer being pushed.

6 PASTORAL MATTERS

- Current and upcoming Parish vacancies
 - London Colney – Lynne Fawns retired on 13th May. Interviewing soon, the vacancy was not advertised.
 - Colney Heath – Gaz Tracey will leave at the end of July, moving to Diocese of Liverpool. This has not yet been officially announced but went out on Twitter.
 - Shenley – Dan McCarthy is undergoing treatment so is working reduced hours.
 - St Albans, Christ Church – Jeremy Follett is on sick leave
 - Radlett – Helen King is due to leave at the beginning of September

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- Clergy appointments
 - Patrick Moriarty has joined St Stephen's with St Julian's
 - Charles King is due to join St Michael's with St Mary's in July
 - David Halsey will join St Luke's, St Albans in July
 - Appointment of an Assistant Rural Dean is waiting on the Bishop

7 AGEND FOR JUNE DEANERY SYNOD

- DMAP update on progress
- Advertise for Deanery Treasurer
- Diocesan Elections – reminder that nominations due by midday on 22nd June
- Pastoral Matters – small discussion groups to allow Deanery to stay in touch with needs of the parishes
- Parish Giving Scheme to be promoted
- Biodiversity Project – burial ground environmental survey initiative

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

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

Date of Next Standing Committee – 25th September 2018 – St Luke's, Cell Barnes Lane