

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 7.30 pm on Thursday 12th March 2020 at St Luke's Church, St Albans.

PRESENT

Ex officio

Rural Dean
(RD)

Treasurer
(PF)

Lay Co-Chair
(MD)

Secretary

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

The Rural Dean sent his apologies due to another commitment.

The Deanery Secretary sent her apologies due to sore throat. Minutes were taken by xxx.

Attendance – 33 Members recorded plus 1 Guest and the Guest Speaker. Only 13 parishes were represented, there were no members from Aldenham, London Colney nor Radlett.

Advanced Apologies received – 17 Apologies on the night – 5

Abbreviations used: DSSC – Deanery Synod Standing Committee DMAP – Deanery Mission Action Plan
CMS – Church Mission Society; CTSA – Churches Together in St Albans

1.	Welcome to St Albans Deanery Synod & St Peter's Church, St Albans
	The meeting opened at 7:30pm with a welcome from (MD), Lay Co-Chair. Revd Mark Dearnley, Vicar of St Peter's, reflected on the current state we were in with the coronavirus outbreak and the need to care for our communities. He then led Synod in prayer.
2.	Minutes of the last Deanery Synod Meeting – 22nd October 2019
	The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2019 were signed as a true record.
3.	Matters Arising
	Minute 2 - Representatives had taken back to their parishes the material on STEP. Minute 5 - So far, no interest had been expressed in communications screens. Minute 12 – possible future meeting topics. Suggestions included David Barker of Youth Talk on 17 July at St Luke's, Bricket Wood; and Louise Bates from Alzheimer's Society on 10 November at Holy Trinity, Frogmore. A report on the Public Health Forum was accepted with thanks.
4.	New Lay Training Pathway
	Revd. Tim Bull spoke on this project. It had started with a question about what stops laity getting involved with Christian ministry – lack of confidence, inability to discern God's call and a feeling that this was the job of the clergy not the laity. After much work, new lay training opportunities would be available from September. This would provide opportunities for everyone to play their part in whichever way they can, and to live out discipleship where they are. The training would be mission focussed and accessible, and would develop and build on the gifts and key skills people came with. It would help people to discern their vocations. It would use existing clergy and reader trainers and the Church Mission Society (CMS). The one-year foundation course would effectively replace the first year of the ordinary three-year reader training course so there would be no additional cost

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falling to parishes (and the course would be free to participants).

The foundation course would be for anyone who thought they could benefit from the training, although they would need to be recommended by their incumbent and PCC. There would be much distance learning on basics like the Bible and spirituality and then a choice of ways forward.

This could be followed by two years of Reader training.

Sue Hughes then spoke about the Reaching New People team. The Diocese had been working with the CMS and in particular their Certificate in Pioneer Mission course. We needed more people to experience and explore faith and to extend the effectiveness of traditional parish work. The course would be delivered by practitioners. It would comprise 14 hours of teaching for each module. There would be coursework on Saturdays and Wednesday evenings, much including group work with a facilitator, at St Mary's, Luton.

On satisfactory conclusion of the training, Missioners would be commissioned to work in their own parishes to reach out in mission and to bring in people on the fringe.

There would be a taster day on 23 May at St Mary's, Luton.

Questions

The speakers confirmed that the age range for Missioners would be 18 upwards (with no upper limit). The training would be cross-cultural, helping young and old or those with different life experiences to communicate with each other. Missioners would need to be able to talk to people with no Christian framework – no 'Church-speak'. They would be expected to have been baptised; but the over-riding need was for a recommendation from their incumbent and PCC.

Asked about the level of commitment for training, Tim said there would probably be just one written assignment, with about an hour's work online and two hours reading each week.

It may be possible to 'dip in' for specific topics, although this is still being developed.

People from non-Anglican churches could participate; it's not a specifically Anglican course although it is funded by the Church of England.

'Seeking the Way' was still going to run, for people seeking or testing their vocation. Similarly this will not duplicate or compete with the work of the Cathedral Study Centre. Tim works with training providers generally, and this should help to ensure everyone works together.

5. Sustainability and Climate Change

The Deanery motion had not made it onto the agenda for Diocesan Synod this coming weekend, but it may be on the agenda for the June meeting.

(KC) spoke on Hope in Action, following the discussion at the previous Synod. Much work had been going on behind the scenes, including on the expansion of Luton Airport. The group had been heartened by the recent decision on Heathrow expansion, and hoped to use that ruling in other developments. They were linking with CTSA and Sustainable St Albans to develop an Ideas Workshop.

KC said that Synod members had been sent the group's newsletter electronically in the past, but people now needed to register to receive it. It needs to be circulated to our congregations. It was funded by the group, and donations (for example from Synod) would be appreciated.

At the previous meeting there had been a comment about problems with historic listed churches with big draughty windows. xxx had sent useful links to (AS): anyone wanting these should contact him through the Synod Secretary.

Xxx had sent a message about the General Synod decision to bring forward the date of Church of England 'carbon neutral' from 2045 to 2030 and the consequent significant cost implications (in particular, for boiler conversion). Apparently, there was potential for hydrogen-fuelled boilers and this needs to be flagged up as an issue for a future meeting of Synod. Asked if the technology was there, it was felt that convertible ones (natural gas to hydrogen) might be available within a few years. Clearly guidance was needed – should

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	<p>parishes change now, or wait 3-5 years for technology to advance and prices to come down? We needed advice on this. xxx asked for the challenges of carbon neutral Church by 2030 to be put on the agenda of future synod/s.</p> <p>Another questioner asked about budgeting for net zero - for example special grants or fund-raising. In addition there may be issues with planners and conservationists on things like solar panels – where does environment trump history?</p>
6.	Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP) – key actions taken
	<p>MD reported that RD wanted to produce a summary progress report on the Deanery Mission Action Plan for the new Synod and next Rural Dean.</p> <p>He had commented that X:Site had started as a Deanery project, with three events being run in the last year. Each time there had been a shortage of adult helpers: support from parishes had been disappointing. The Deanery needs to get behind this! The next event is in June.</p>
7.	The Big Conversation
	<p>This initiative builds on ‘Living God’s Love’. The average age of our congregations is significantly different to that of the rest of the population: we need to get younger congregations! Over the next 6-9 months a visit from two facilitators will be offered to each PCC or group of church leaders. They will consider what ‘Growing younger’ will look like to the individual parish. There will be a structured conversation about the specific situation of each parish.</p> <p>This should all be complete by the year-end, and there may be follow-up sessions afterwards. It had emerged at the recent Area Deans and Lay Chairs meeting that not all parishes who had asked to be part of the Big Conversation had been allocated facilitators. If you have not heard from your facilitator by the end of March please email Tim Wilson on bigconversation@stalbans.anglican.org</p>
8.	Parish Vacancies
	<p>Revd Canon Javid Iqbal has resigned as Team Rector for Radlett to become Archdeacon of Doncaster (in May).</p> <p>The new Archdeacon of St Albans, Jane Mainwaring, was to be collated in Hemel Hempstead on Saturday.</p>
9.	Treasurer’s Report
	<p>PF reported on finance issues. She had now successfully opened an account with Lloyds – one which allows electronic use and two signatories. Once she had a statement from NatWest for February, she would close the account there.</p> <p>In both 2017 and 2018, parishes had contributed at the rate of £50 for each lay member. Synod had decided on this to build up a reserve for mission activities. At the end of 2018, very little had been spent so we had about £4000 in the bank. Much of this had been spent during 2019 (including £3000 on X:Site, and smaller amounts on the website, printing the Deanery Directory and RD’s annual newsletter), so we now had £540 left. Subscriptions had been suspended for 2019. Synod decided that the parish contribution in 2020 should be £30 for each lay member (it had been £0 in 2019). Treasurers had been asked for their contributions on 20th February and the first ones had come in on 24th: nine of the 16 had now paid.</p>
10.	Synod Reports
	<p>xxx had forwarded Anthony Archer’s General Synod to the Secretary: she would circulate it to Synod members.</p> <p>Diocesan Synod will meet on Saturday.</p>
11.	Any Other Business

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	<p>A pilgrimage from Redbourn to the Cathedral was to take place on 20th June to mark the final journey of the remains of Amphibulus.</p> <p>MD said that this was the end of the Synod's triennium: she thanked members for their work, dedication and contributions. She asked those not standing for re-election to enthuse people in their congregations to stand. Thanks were expressed to Mark Slater for his five years as Rural Dean.</p>						
12.	Closing Prayer						
	<p>The Assistant Rural Dean closed the meeting with prayer before leading all in saying The Grace.</p>						
	<p>Dates for future meetings (NB - with 7.30pm start time)</p> <table><tr><td><u>2020</u></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>17th June</td><td>St Luke's, Bricket Wood</td></tr><tr><td>10th November</td><td>Holy Trinity, Frogmore</td></tr></table>	<u>2020</u>		17 th June	St Luke's, Bricket Wood	10 th November	Holy Trinity, Frogmore
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