

MEETING MINUTES: WITNEY DEANERY SYNOD St. Mary's, Bampton - 19th November 2014

Welcome and Introduction – The Rev'd Toby Wright

- Thank you to Rev'd David Lloyd for hosting us and everyone who helped
- Introducing new members of Synod: Nick Thompson – Witney, Gaynor Taylor - Burford, Anne Hichens - Langford, Georgina Lewis - Broadwell.
- Acceptance of last minutes - Proposed Ian Griffiths, Carterton; Seconded Susie Miles, Standlake
Motion passed

General Synod Update - The Rev'd Hugh Lee - Hugh.lee@btinternet.com

- 2 Synods since last Witney Deanery Synod – July and this week. Information can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod/agendas-and-papers/november-2014-group-of-sessions.aspx>
- Safe guarding revision meeting
- Methodists will look into having Bishops. We have agreed to look at interchangeability of ministries
- New code of professional conduct for the clergy discussed
- New baptism service being trialed currently with more accessible language
- Bed room tax issues

Iconic moments:

- Synod was addressed by a Muslim for the first time. During the discussion about violence Iraq and Syria, in response to a questions, the comment was passed “The worst thing a radical can do to you is not to kill you but make you hate them, because that touches your soul”.
- Formal enactment of the legislation - Amending Canon 33 - enabling women to be ordained as Bishops in the Church of England.

Oxford Diocese's link with Växjö diocese in Sweden – The Rev'd Hugh White

- Good time to publicise this link as they have just celebrated 10 years of the link.
- Common challenges and issues – outreach to men; ministry with young people; pilgrimage; mission at home and in the world-wide church.
- Large number of 15 year olds going through confirmation. Up to 50%
- Highly professionalised church. They are interested in how we work with volunteers.
- Study each other's pastoral methods. Interest in Living Faith.
- Make provision for the use by one diocese of experts from another
- Environmental issues
- Offer appropriate opportunity for those in responsibility to shadow and learn
- Representatives to special occasions in each other's dioceses
- No financial responsibility for each other
- Very keen for other parishes to link with them. Links only work if embedded into parish life.

Lay chairs remarks – Kevin Rillie

- Has visited all the churches in the ride and stride.
- Churchwardens' evenings – build on the discussions and support the individual parishes and benefices.

Men's Ministry

- What is the reason why there is a gap?
- Questions and challenges at this point
- Working group – Kevin, James Maddern (Brize Norton & Carterton), Andrew Tweedy (Lower Windrush), Ron Curtis (assistant area dean). Need lay representation – please contact if interested in joining the group.
- One big question to ask – is it due to commuting way of life? Is church responding by adjusting to demographic it serves rather than reaching these people?
- Men not being able to be part of children's lives after divorce.
- What is relevance of Sunday morning to the rest of the week? Church seen as irrelevant
- One thing would like to do is run a survey of what is working successfully e.g. forest church
- What would make context of meeting as body of Christ more comfortable and encompassing for the men we want to attract?
- We think a real interest in spiritual matters. How to meet this? Think carpenter rather than meek and mild. What can we learn and apply that in our society today?

Study - The Rev'd Richard Coombs

John 13.

At the heart of Christian life is service. We have to let Jesus serve us.

No one can be a leader unless prepared to be a servant. The true motivation for Christian service is from understanding how we are served.

Inspiration

Welcome to the Parish Development Advisor, the Rev'd Charles Chadwick and introduction to deanery priorities - The Rev'd Toby Wright

- Deanery plan – who we are, what we intend to in Deanery etc.
- Vision and mission action planning within individual parishes help being offered by Charles.
- Churches with a MAP are far more likely to grow than those that don't.
- Letter and a Summary form for completion will be sent out by email accompanied by a more in depth record that can be used. The summary document needs to be returned by 20th January please.

WITNEY DEANERY SYNOD

- At the deanery residential, this information will be looked at to see connections, overlaps and work out where resources can be shared and to draft a deanery VMAP.

Schools Ministry – The Rev'd Alastair Blaine

- Thanks to Miss Elizabeth Knowles for all her help. If want to join group please email rev.alastair.blaine@gmail.com
- Initial look at results shows a good number of schools with foundation governance.
- More expertise to share than ideas needed.
- Amount of collective worship engaged in is very good.
- Ann Boutflower – secondary school assemblies likely to be announcements rather than collective worship.

Further analysis will be carried out. Please email to correct any errors that you notice. The results summary is attached in the appendix.

VMAP and where we go next – The Rev'd Charles Chadwick

If you would like any assistance with this process, please contact Charles at charles.chadwick@oxford.anglican.org

- The future is coming. Reflect. Start with the bible.
- Be thankful for things going well. Start with this – acknowledge and affirm before God. What things do we think we are good at? E.g. Resources for people to pray when visit church e.g. biblical text, candle to light.
- Think to annual meeting 2020, what will ministers etc. be thanking God for?
- Bible full of questions e.g. garden of Eden God asks “where are you?” Where are we in relation to God? Where do we want to be?
- Christ’s example of creativity, compassion etc. Where are we and where do we want to be?
- How can we grow in mission, service of others, faith?
- Achievable, realistic goals.
- Start at parish level, feed in to deanery VMAP so it comes from bottom up.

Business

Finance – Mrs. Sue Campbell

- Payment (in full) of Parish share is required by end of November.
- 8 days to go. We are well down on target amount. Expect to be over 20K short.
- If to pay in full, see if parishes that have paid in full, can they pay more.
- Never going to be a formula where everyone can be able to pay in full. Need Christian giving within the deanery to support the parishes not in a position to pay.
- Just over 4% share increase next year so need to be proactive next year. Please can parishes plan at beginning of year and send copies of budget and cash flow to Sue so she can support them.

WITNEY DEANERY SYNOD

- Encourage you to pay by direct debit to get your 1% back.
- Sue is very happy to go to PCCs to explain about the share and what it is used for.
- If we meet share we will get up to £16,000 back, and will be transparent what happens with the funds.

Motion

Synod supports the motion that we ask those that parishes who have paid in full to pay an extra 5% of their share to help struggling parishes meet their share.

Proposed: Sue Campbell Seconded: Ian Griffiths, Carterton

In favour: 20 Against: 4 Abstentions: 10

Motion carried

- Sue will contact parishes yet to pay in full to find out if can pay any more and the parishes who have paid in full to see if they can pay an additional 5%
- If anyone wants to join the finance committee, please contact Sue: suemcampbell@gmail.com

Area Dean's Notices – The Rev'd Toby Wright

Clergy Residential – February next year. No cost to parish.

Other important matters

• Schools

Aided and Controlled Schools need to update their "Instrument of Government" as part of the reconstitution of governing bodies which has to be done by September 2015. They need to change the references (there should be 2) to the archdeacon. Oxford must become Dorchester – easily overlooked!

• Deanery Synod Motion

'That this deanery Synod welcomes the vote for female consecration enabling women to be ordained as Bishops in the Church of England, by the General Synod in July and November 2014.'

Proposed: Ann Margaret Boutflower, Bampton with Clanfield

Seconded: Mark Albert, Bampton with Clanfield

Needs to be discussed because of implications especially for those who may have reservations. The opposition to vote immediately was removed.

In favour: 30 Against: 0 Abstentions: 5 Motion passed

• Next meetings

Monday 16th February 2015, Turner Hall, North Leigh

Thursday 4th June 2015, Lower Windrush venue tbc

Monday 19th October 2015 venue tbc

WITNEY DEANERY SYNOD

Attendees

Standing Committee:

Rev'd Toby Wright (area dean), Kevin Rillie (lay Chair), Sue Campbell (treasurer) Charles Mathew, John Glanville

Guest speakers:

Rev'd Hugh Lee (Member of General Synod)

Rev'd Dr. Hugh White (Projects Officer for the Oxford-Växjö link)

Rev'd Charles Chadwick (Parish Development Advisor)

Synod reps:

Pamela Barling (Alvescot); Mark Albert & Ann Boutflower (Bampton with Clanfield); Georgina Lewis (Broadwell); Elizabeth Holmes (Brize Norton); Gaynor Taylor (Burford); Ian Griffiths (Carterton); Barbara Eaton & Elizabeth Knowles (Cogges); Ian Paul & John Pearson (Ducklington); Corinna Rock (Holwell); Anne Hichens (Langford); Roderick Craig (North Leigh); Sheila Caygill (Northmoor); Donald Chamberlain (Shilton); Alison Shaw & Susie Miles (Standlake); Helen Meyrick, Philip Platt Stephanie Keates, Nick Thompson (Witney); Philip Rogers (Yelford)

Ministers:

Rev'd David Lloyd (Bampton); Rev'd James Maddern (Brize Norton & Carterton); Rev'd Richard Coombs & Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Hunter Dunn (Burford); Rev'd Simon Kirby (Cogges; South Leigh & North Leigh); Rev'd Paula Clifford (Minster Lovell); Rev'd Harry MacInnes & Rev'd David Spence (Shill Valley & Broadshire Benefice); Rev'd Neil Traynor, Rev'd Joy Hance & Rev'd Alastair Blaine (Witney)

Observers:

Richard Kirby (Langford)

Apologies

Rev'd Ron Curtis (Assistant Area Dean); Rev'd Andrew Tweedy (Standing Committee)

Sue Meech (Asthall & Swinbrook with Widford); Eileen Wojciechowska (Black Bourton); Gillian Allison (Broughton Poggs cum Filkins); Rachel van der Elst (Burford); Mark Kingston (Cogges); Martin Dines (Ducklington); David McFarlane (Kelmscott); Gill Cox (Kencot); Jeremy Taylor (Little Faringdon); Nicola Carter & Kirsty Strange (Minster Lovell); Judy Poole (South Leigh); Michael Russell (Taynton); Pamela Carter-Moore (Westwell)

Rev'd Dr. Nick Pike (Cogges, South Leigh & North Leigh)