
WITNEY DEANERY SYNOD

MEETING MINUTES: WITNEY DEANERY SYNOD Monday 16th February 2015 Turner Hall, North Leigh

Welcome and Introduction – The Rev'd Toby Wright

Thanks to North Leigh for hosting and for all the work and refreshments.

New members – Rev'd Margaret Dixon our host at North Leigh
Rev'd Cedric Reavley (Finance Committee / Burford Benefice) introduced himself for those that are new to the Deanery Synod as he has not been able to make Synod for some time.

Acceptance of last minutes (Meeting 19th November 2014)

Proposed: Ian Griffith (Carterton); Seconded: Charles Mathew (Stanton Harcourt)

Motion passed

General Synod Update - The Rev'd Hugh Lee

Archbishop Justin new initiative – program for renewal and reform. 1% decrease in attendance per year over past 40 years. Number of clergy also declined.

5 task forces for spiritual and numerical growth.

1. Developing discipleship – help people develop their discipleship. New catechism
2. Resourcing ministerial training - 50% more ordinands (aiming for the younger applicants) - this won't stop decline. Different selection for those who will be 50 by time of ordination
3. Training for future leaders – develop talents in the younger ministers so better management of church in the future (headed by Lord Green)
4. Reallocation of funding (10 year transition) so money coming back to diocese targeted for poor growth (it was felt that no longer supporting failing churches). Spend £100million of the reserves to promote this initiative.
5. Simplification

Other issues:

- Shared conversations on sexuality. The way the church discusses these topics changing so groups of people come together for 3 days in regions (not just diocese) to represent all shades of opinion. Emphasis that significant percentage of participants should be young. No agenda – talk, listen and understand points of view.
 - Safeguarding – another step forward
 - The new baptism service in accessible language was well received
 - Funerals for those that take their own life. Agreed to be overhauled so no longer discrimination.
 - Mission and Growth in Rural Multi-Parish Benefices – “Released for Mission - Growing the rural church” report. The challenges of rural ministry are addressed in this new report and it will be debated at General Synod next time.
 - Election for General Synod in late summer
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Inspiration

Christian Aid Week 2015 – Anwen Newman

Christian Aid been going for 70 years – tackling poverty in poorest communities. Every May is big fundraising push - Christian Aid week. Last year raised £12million in Christian Aid week alone with £184000 from Oxfordshire. 75% of total raised is from door to door collections.

This year Christian Aid week runs from 10th – 16th May. The country of focus is Ethiopia and the specific area is gender inequality.

Gender inequality can keep people in poverty especially women in rural communities. Christian Aid are working with HUNDEE – an organization based in the communities who put community based interventions in place e.g. changing the laws, giving livestock to the poorest of the poor. More information can be found at

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/index.aspx>

Three thoughts:

1. Can you make your local village collection stronger and more fun by recruiting more collectors? Sat 14th March St Michael Northgate church – breakfast event for those wanting to be more involved in Christian Aid week. Johnny Walker, an intern that visited Ethiopia will be there to share his personal experiences.
2. Is your church new to Christian Aid? – list of alternative fundraisers available e.g. auction of promises
3. Please pray for Christian Aid. Specific prayers on website available and bible studies, sermon notes

The question was raised about what Christian Aid was doing for the displaced Christians in Iraq – the Iraq Crisis Appeal was mentioned – for specific information please go to:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/current/iraq-crisis-appeal/index.aspx>

Vision and Mission Action Planning update – The Rev'd Toby Wright

Discussion in small groups with the ministers who attended the Witney Deanery Residential in Lincoln

Update on priorities that were drawn up in Synod

Schools

Spirituality workshop being held on 24th March for Governors and Teachers at C of E primary schools. Community schools want a workshop to be held for them.

SeeSaw - training for bereavement in schools

Training to support Foundation Governors.

Men's ministry

Survey is out waiting results

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Mission Action Plan

Approximately 15 responses come in from the Deanery, to ensure a bottom up approach to the MAP. John Glanville and Toby working on drawing this together.

There are a large number of charities based in the Deanery and at the residential we agreed it would be good to try and organise an evening (hosted by Bishop Colin) where the charities are invited to come together.

Bible Study

The Rev'd Andrew Tweedy - Romans 13:8-14

Business

Other important matters

Next meetings:

Thursday 4th June 2015, Lower Windrush

Monday 19th October 2015

There is a Deanery website www.witneydeanery.org

Archidiaconal Visitations – paperwork is being sent out over next week. Please ask PCC members to come to visitation to support churchwardens. Please note that this year there will be a stronger line on ensuring churchwardens are sworn in at a Visitation – permission will be needed from the Archdeacon for any churchwarden to be sworn in their parish. The Visitation for the Witney Deanery is 14th May and the venue has been set following the meeting as Saint Mary's Cogges.

No Area Dean notices

No Lay Chair notices

Finance – Mrs. Sue Campbell

Thank you to the parishes that gave 5% and the 3 individuals that did private donations and parishes that used their reserves to ensure the parish share was met. It has been a few years since this was last achieved.

Figures that were distributed have a slight amendment because Ducklington paid in full in January. One parish that looks like paid nothing paid £800 to Deanery for Mission and Administration, which means that we do not have to collect the £25 per Synod member per term that was agreed in 2011. The share was however only met by using a short term loan – £6,500 of this has been repaid from the rebate. This means that there is a rebate of £10,000 remaining.

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This year will be even more challenging: £6,000 less this year in the over allocation; most parishes experiencing a 5% increase in share and we cannot ask again for extra in November from parishes that have already paid. The way forward therefore:

1. Please consider share as part of Christian Giving, so if can give more, please do. North Leigh has agreed at PCC to give 5% extra. Please put this on agenda for all your PCC meetings.
2. Increase to income is solution in long term – stewardship, fundraising meeting 24 March 2015 – Carterton. **Please ensure 2 people per parish attend this meeting.**
3. Later in the year, look at financial planning and reserves. We are responsible for money we are given, so ensure we are doing the best. Going to look at accounts, meet with individuals and hold workshops with the diocese.

What to do with the nearly £10000 rebate:

Proposal

That the rebate received by the Witney deanery as a result of having paid their share in full in 2014 should be retained by the Deanery to provide a reserve to ensure that the deanery again meets its moral obligation of paying its share in full in 2015, but with the plan that if this was achieved, of returning an agreed sum (Agreed by Synod) of the 2015 rebate to parishes in a way approved by Synod.

Proposed: Sue Campbell Seconded: Helen Meyrick (Witney)

Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 In favour: everyone else (31) Motion carried

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Attendees:

Rev'd Toby Wright (Area Dean), Kevin Rillie (Lay Chair), Sue Campbell (Treasurer) Standing Committee: John Glanville, Charles Mathew, Rev'd Drew Tweedy
Mandy Studley (Administrator)

Pamela Barling (Alvescot), Sue Meech (Asthall & Swinbrook with Widford), Betty Holmes (Brize Norton), Rachel Vander Elst (Burford), Ian Griffiths (Carterton), Barbara Eaton, Elizabeth Knowles & Mark Kingston (Cogges), John Pearson (Ducklington), Anne Hichens (Langford), Sheila Caygill (Northmoor), Susie Miles & Alison Shaw (Standlake), Gill Salway (Stanton Harcourt), Michael Russell (Taynton), Stephanie Keates, Helen Meyrick & Phil Platt (Witney), Philip Rogers (Yelford)

James Maddern (Brize Norton & Carterton), Rev'd Richard Coombs (Burford Benefice) & Rev'd Cedric Reavley (Finance Committee / Burford Benefice), Rev'd Simon Kirby, Rev'd Margaret Dixon & Rev'd Dr. Nick Pike (Cogges, South Leigh & North Leigh), Rev'd Alastair Blaine (Witney)

Apologies:

Ron Curtis (Assistant Area Dean)

Mark Albert & Ann Boutflower (Bampton with Clanfield), Eileen Wojciechowska (Black Bourton), Gaynor Taylor (Burford), Martin Dines, Ian Paul & John Pearson (Ducklington), David MacFarlane (Kelmscott), Gill Cox (Kencot), Jeremy Taylor (Little Faringdon), Kirsty Strange (Minster Lovell), Roderick Craig (North Leigh), Judith Poole (South Leigh), Donald Chamberlain (Shilton), Pamela Carter-Moore (Westwell), Nick Thompson (Witney)

Rev'd David Lloyd (Bampton), Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Hunter Dunn (Burford), Rev'd Bill Blakey (Carterton & Brize Norton), Rev'd Bob Edy (Ducklington), Rev'd Harry MacInnes, Rev'd David Spence & Rev'd Karen Young (Shill Valley & Broadshire Benefice), Rev'd Joy Hance & Rev'd Neil Traynor (Witney)
