

SONNING DEANERY SYNOD

Date: Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 8pm
Venue: To be held at St Eligius Church, Tope Rd, Aborfield, RG2 9NB
Chair: Rev'd Richard Lamey (Area Dean) and John Sutton (Lay Chair)

Present: Michael Byrne, David Horrocks, Charlotte Wilde, Ellen Crewe, Lia Davies, Carol Frost, Anna Pearce, Leigh Welham, Revd Leonard Onugha, Revd Julian McAllen, Revd Tonia Elliott, Nicola Alder, Felicity Workman, Revd Catherine Vaughan, Penny Crane, Revd John Castle, John Martin, Sue Campbell, Revd Richard Eves, Karen Lloyd, Christine Walker, Peter Barrett, Anne Kine, Revd Richard Lamey, John Sutton, Peter Wells, Paul Armitage, Janet Rogers, John Hoskins, Steven Lewis, Revd Jane Kraft.

Apologies: Revd Julian Bidgood, Carolyn Fox, Martin Hughes, Margaret Walker, Jenny Beasley, Revd Jamie Taylor, Revd Katie Toogood, Revd John Cook, Revd Stephen Turville, Sue Griffiths, Sheila Williams, Brenda Bowring, John Boylan, David Ruddock, Revd Andrew Marsden, Peter Thompson, Revd Colin James

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Worship led by John Sutton

Welcomed Revd Leonard Onugha, the new Rector at Finchampstead, Revd Richard Eves, the new Curate at Wargrave, and people to their first Synod meeting: Christine - Wargrave, Felicity - Finchampstead, Paul - St Pauls

The meeting was informed that both Peter Barrett & David Horrocks are standing for Diocesan Synod and to please vote by 8th October

A discussion was had in 2's or 3's answering the following questions

What are we thankful for?

For what are we crying 'help' ?

2. Minutes of meeting 15th June 2021

Amendments/Corrections were made

5:2 The second service at Wargrave for families is 9.15am, not in the evening

Leigh Williams attended the meeting. Her name appears in both attendees and apologies

Given those amendments, all those who were at the meeting in June approved

1 abstention because he was not at the meeting

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

Nothing not covered later in the meetings

4. Finance Report

Richard read out a report from the Treasurer

He explained that Lynne Paine still does not have full access to the bank account so has not seen the latest statement and therefore does not have an up to date list of those parishes that have not paid 2021 Deanery Levy

Letters will go out as reminders once she has the up to date information

There is a good amount in the bank accounts but not enough to do anything substantial

Once the Quinquennial Inspection Levy's have all been reimbursed appropriately then one account will be closed leaving 2 bank accounts

Q. Why can't someone who does have access to the accounts get the information needed?

A. Communication has not been great with the previous treasurers and Lloyds are being tricky about it but hopefully online access will soon be sorted

Richard confirmed that he is a signatory on the accounts and hopefully John & Richard will both soon have access to online

5. Deanery Plan This is the main agenda item with time for reflection, discussion and then a vote to hopefully accept the Plan

Richard introduced the plan and thanked the parishes who responded in July to the questions posed to PCC's

Some things in the plan were adapted accordingly and some things will get addressed through other channels

Richard expressed his view that it is a bit full and is hesitant to add more unless we can let go of some existing points

Richard explained to the meeting that the plan is not a list of everything that is important to church/parishes but what the Deanery can effectively add to

The Diocese and Parish may be working well on some aspects so why add to Deanery plan?

Discussion was had in small groups followed by feedback and questions

Q. Please explain some of the jargon eg. What is a Greenhouse?

It was explained that it is a National Church initiative and that Revd Tonia Elliott is our Deanery rep

The purpose of 'Greenhouses' is for small groups of people, possibly already meeting for some activity, to develop into a spiritual journey, for activities and groups to become intentional about developing spiritually in gentle steps

They start with a small group of people, probably lay led, and grow it in a safe environment to grow spiritually

Q. The Diocese is pushing them but are they a priority for us?

PDP's = Personal Discipleship Plans - 2 people meet and talk about how to help grow in faith and to ask the questions 'What is God calling you to' Start with what God is doing in your life and what HE be calling you to rather than 'what hole can you fill in church?

Q. How can we share resources more effectively rather than re-inventing the wheel? Eg Lament to Action & LLF

Comment: Positive feeling about the away day and meeting together, it is good to get to know other Synod reps

Comment: Communication is still a challenge about what is going on where

Deanery Website: Peter Wells keeps an eye on the website but would be happy for someone else to help

Q. What are the 3C's? Diocesan Vision to be a more Christlike Church, to be Courageous, Compassionate and Contemplative

Comment: There has been a lot of conversation / feedback re: Climate change etc. This is one of those subjects that Parishes are putting a lot of time and energy in to along with +Olivia and is it something that we can add to through the Deanery Plan or is it best left to individual churches to action appropriately? Richard is happy to be challenge on this.

Comment: We can't do everything as a Deanery but Eco Activities could go in the shared resources section

Standing Committee are investigating about how the Deanery may be able to offer small grants to help make church buildings more green which would be a way to support

A Representative from Wargrave expressed a view that there had been lots of input on the Eco agenda and would value more, support from the Deanery in areas of Mission and outreach.

Q. How can Deanery Synod help us with nurturing faith in specific groups of people eg Mum's with young children

A. The Deanery is looking at having a Greenhouse conference in the new year which may be of help.

Comment: It would be helpful and encouraging to have the opportunity for Parishes to share news of what they are doing that is working, on a regular basis, at Synod as well as to share what we have tried and has not worked. This could be included at the Away day

Q. The Plan is about methods rather than content - is that intentional?

A. Yes. Specific content is more relevant at Parish level

Proposed - Richard Lamey

Seconded - Tonia Elliott

Passed: In Favour - 28

Against - 0

Abstentions - 3

Everyone was asked to mark down 2 things that excited and pleased them in the plan

Q. Could there be a way for people to express their priorities that are then fed to Standing Committee to shape and prioritise the plan because there is a lot on there?

ACTION: Richard: to add the Greenhouse website to the plan for people to refer to to explain Jargon where needed

to add headings in to the columns
Each Parish to add a link on Parish websites to the Deanery website
Richard: to send out a Deanery challenge to everyone to give something interesting to Peter for the Website
Peter to put minutes from Synod on the website
Catherine to add Sharing / feedback time on the Agenda

6. Area Dean's notices

Vacancies Winnersh & Bearwood - looking at a change
2017 started a 3 year full time interim post. James Warren retired in June
Now looking at House For Duty or part time post
Crowthorne - Lisa Cornewell has left and they are in Vacancy

Sickness Andrew Marsden still unwell at St Sebs

28th June 2022 +Steven visiting our Deanery as part of his visit round each Deanery
Lunch & Service with clergy
Afternoon event
Dinner with few lay people
Evening event for as many people as possible
ACTION: Please don't double book and keep it clear in the diary

Good to meet together but also good to use Zoom
Proposal that Nov meeting is Zoom and do a mixture
Different day of week will hopefully help those who have regular commitments on certain evenings

Will we decide at Nov meeting about where/ how to meet in March

Clarification regarding the Archdeacons - Stephen & Liz have divided the Archdeaconry geographically as well as by specialism
Stephen Pullin is the first port of call for our Deanery

7. From Lament to Action –

This is a report on racism and how to increase diversity within the whole Church
Richard has had conversations with various people including Polly.... From the Diocese
Lament to Action is mostly working at levels above Deanery
At Deanery & Parish level there is 2 key points
1) Representation - does our PCC represent the minority & culture of our Parish Community
2) Very little aimed at Deanery & PCC level
2 questions for PCC
1) If we were going to preach on equality & inclusion what would you take as your text?
2) How would you know if your church is welcoming to people of all backgrounds?

Charlotte Wilde from Arborfield & Barkham made some very useful points regarding question 2- Use of Padlets at Reading Uni had proved really useful to gather info that was shocking and may not have been heard without that anonymous, easy to access forum. Her key advice was to make it as easy as possible for people to share experiences and engage with the question

PADLET is free software available for opening up questions

8. Any other notices (notified to the Chair in advance)

John Sutton - Living in Love & Faith - is anyone interested in the process or people already going through the process at Parish level?

Please let John know by email laychair.sonning@gmail.com

9. Closing Prayers

Closed by John and then everyone shared the Peace

Attachments: Minutes of meeting on 15th June 2021
Deanery Plan Version 2

Future meetings:

Wed. Nov 24th	On Zoom
Tues. March 15th 2022	Venue TBC
Mon. June 20th 2022	
Wed. Sept 28th 2022	
Tues. Nov 22nd 2022	