

SONNING DEANERY SYNOD

Date: Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 8pm
Venue: To be held on Zoom

MINUTES

In Attendance: Revd John Cook, Revd Jane Kraft, Anne king, John H, Jenni McKeever, Felicity Workman, Steve, Anthony Pollock, Penny Crane, Lia, Paul Armitage, Charlotte Wilde-Smith, Martin Hughes, Sue Campbell, Jenny Beaseley, Janet Rogers, John Boylan, Diana Gray, Karen Lloyd, Julian Bidgood, Revd Richard Lamey, Revd Catherine Vaughan, Peter Barrett, Alison Vacher, Joanna Brown, Anna Pearce, Revd Colin James, John Sutton,

Lynne Paine (Deanery Treasurer) attended for the whole meeting.

6 Members of the Diocesan Team attended to give input for the main part of the meeting: Alison Riggs, Sarah Flashman, Hannah Ling, Tina Molyneux, Andrew Anderson - Gear, Ian Macdonald

Apologies: Peter Thompson, Margaret Walker, Michael Byrne, Carol Frost, John Martin, John Castle, Leigh Welham, Cara Smart, Carolyn Fox, Sue Payne, Rachel Leitch - Devlin, Sheila Williams, Christine Walker, David Horrocks

1. Conversation with members of the Deanery and the Diocesan Mission Department

A warm welcome was extended to the Diocesan Team and the Deanery members were placed into 3 groups and 2 of the Diocesan team joined each group for 20 minutes to share briefly their individual roles and then to answer any questions raised by the group

The team joined us at our invitation to share what they have discerned as being helpful within individual parishes as we emerge from the last couple of years.

The purpose of the group time was not to get people to sign up to everything but hopefully connect with something that is exciting and that we want to join in with.

Tina Molyneux: Discipleship and Growing new Christians

Every Parish is different and there is no 'One Size Fits All' therefore different approaches are needed in different Parish's.

Gifts for Everyday Faith is a leaflet that helps people to appreciate their gifts. It is suggested that after going through the leaflet people engage in 1:1 conversation to see how they may use and develop their gift

Come and See is available through the Diocese website and includes daily reflections that are sent out via internet, weekly reflections that are a little longer from +Steven and materials for families

Ian Macdonald: Children and Families

Spacemakers Contemplative Resources - a pack of materials written to engage with schools and parishes and which includes 5 prayer practices, also being used in the 'Come & See' materials.

Andrew Anderson-Gear: Director of Mission

The local church is a place of hope and confidence in God and like everyone across the nation we are emerging from the Pandemic and working our how we regather and rebuild.

Parish Planning Tool is a pack, based on appreciative enquiry that helps parishes focus and set priorities.

Sarah Flashman: New Congregations Enabler

Traditional forms of worship have, and still do, nourish and feed worshippers but we also need to engage with and listen to others around us. Communities grow around places where we serve.

And so '*Greenhouses*' are being formed across the deanery to build on activities / groups that are already meeting together and so provide an opportunity for questions to be explored.

Revd Sue Sampson from Burnham and Slough has help on how to develop online congregations.

Hannah Ling: Social Justice, Poverty and inequality

Hannah's role covers a range of areas. Currently she is working with Citizens UK to help introduce a scheme whereby churches can host as well as support Refugees.

She is part of the Real Living Wage Campaign working to help alleviate Fuel Poverty
Digital Exclusion is a scheme that is trying to overcome this challenge and there will be a scheme whereby churches can collect old digital devices that will be recycled and reused but those in need.

Alison Riggs: Environment and the Climate Emergency

Her role is to help the Diocese reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030/2035

She can support Parishes in various ways

Energy Audit

Eco Church that covers 5 areas including church gardens, lifestyles at home and Climate Justice
Energy Footprint Tool which is included in this years Annual Parish Returns

There is much we can do in our parishes to educate our congregations on the impact we have on our environment and what lifestyle changes we can make to reduce our carbon footprint. We need space in the Church Agenda and need to decide what we may need to drop in order to pick this up.

Janet Rogers highlighted that there are lots of charities that have emerged recently and it may be that we need to connect and signpost people to these rather than trying to do everything ourselves.

If we take Climate issues and Justice seriously then people will take the church seriously

All of the team are available to come and talk with Parishes about their needs, hopes and dreams to see where they can offer help and support. Contact details are available on the Diocese website

ACTION: Richard asked everyone to decide on one priority and to then email that through to Catherine Vaughan who will collate our thoughts across the Deanery and this may then help to shape our next Deanery Plan, as well as allowing people to work together.

2. Environmental Grants (Please see below)

Sonning Deanery Synod have set aside £5,000 for match funding for PCC projects within the Deanery which aim to reduce the Parish's Carbon Footprint or support and work towards the Diocesan commitment towards a carbon neutral future.

Grants will be made of up to £1,000 per project, and per parish, per year.

The Deanery Standing Committee will take advice from the Diocesan Workstream Leaders on the Environment when making their decision on the best use of the money but the final decision will be theirs.

PCCs wanting to apply for a Grant should send details of their proposal to the Deanery Secretary, along with a supporting PCC motion.

3. Finance Report (Please see attached)

4. Update from General Synod

Peter Barrett gave us a report on the last General Synod Meeting. Please see attached

5. Area Dean's Report

- Thank you to everyone involved in +Steven's visit. Good day all round. Lunch was excellent - thank you John Cook for hosting us at Wargrave.

Yeldall Manor visit was very good in the afternoon as well.

Thank you to John for dinner with members from the House of Laity

Good conversation in the evening at Luckley House School in their theatre- and thanks to the School for their generous hosting.

- Need to look at communication generally and how information gets disseminated because some said that information did not get passed on. Every parish was notified of the events but clearly not every parish passed it on.

Suggested that we give links to Deanery Website - email Richard and things can get on to the website

- 3 parishes in vacancy:

Crowthorne - agreed parish profile and advertising soon

St Sebs - Andrew took early retirement on grounds of poor health

Winerush & Bearwood - conversations are being had with Rhodri Bowen (Parish Development Adviser) on how to move forward

Please continue to pray for all of them

- Joel Knight coming to arrive at Christ Church after Easter. From St Ebbe's, Oxford

- Deanery Levy. Propose to keep the same rate at £35 per rep as has been for the last several years. Parishes pay in to the Deanery and then Deanery use for their expenses

ACTION: Lynne Paine will send out reminders to treasurers

Lynne proposed the Levy stay the same. John Cook seconded

All in favour after no questions and no abstentions.

- Accounts available for AGM 20th June which will be at Ruscombe- please note that there will be limited parking and no toilet facilities.

- Deanery Plan: Focusing in on 2 sections since we have lost so much time through the last 12 months of Covid- so the focus in on Rebuilding relationships and Preparing the ground for the next plan.

- Ukraine: Lots of people offering to do things but are we in the right place to do something right now, given the lack of clarity in Government policy? People offering finances, rooms, teaching English.... Churches together in Wokingham are talking to Councillors etc

Hannah Ling is looking at how to move forward with Diocese

Better to work together with other churches wherever possible

Sanctuary Foundation set up by Krish Kandiah has some excellent information

ACTION: Set up a section on the Deanery Website for Ukraine info

The Diocese newsletter last week had some excellent info

6. Closing Prayer led by Revd Jane Kraft and then we shared the grace

Next meeting Monday 20th June at Ruscombe

NB. there is *limited parking, no toilets* and soft drinks provided