

SONNING DEANERY SYNOD

Date: Monday 20th June 2022 at 8pm
Venue: St James' Church, Finchampstead

MINUTES

The evening began with a celebration of the Eucharist in church.
This was followed by refreshments and the Meeting in the Church Hall.

In Attendance: Revd. Leonard Onugha, Revd. Julian McAllen, Revd. Tonia Elliot, Revd. Canon David Hodgson, Revd. Canon Richard Lamey, Revd Jane Kraft.

Michael Byrne, David Horrocks, Simon Fawkes, Carol Frost, Anna Pearce, Leigh Welham, Nicola Alder, Carolyn Fox, Penny Crane, Rachel Leitch – Devlin, John Sutton, Peter Wells, Janet Rogers, John Hoskins, Steven Lewis, Christine Walker, Alan Hall, Michael Freeman.

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

Apologies: Revd. Julian Bidgood, Revd Catherine Vaughan, Revd. John Castle, Revd. Katie Toogood, Revd. Cara Smart, Revd Colin James.

Felicity Workman, Jenny Beasley, John Martin, Sue Campbell, David Hare, Geoff Peck, Karen Lloyd, Anne King, Joanna Brown, Stephen Martin.

The Lay Chair, John Sutton, chaired the meeting.

1. Election of Officers

The Rev'd Catherine Vaughan is standing down as Secretary There being no nominations for the post it remains vacant. An appeal was made for churches to make this known and seek someone who is willing to fill this role. Catherine was thanked for all she had done during her time as Secretary.

Lynne Paine agreed to continue as Treasurer and her reelection was voted unanimously.

John Sutton was also willing to continue as Lay Chair agree unanimously.

2. Minutes of Meeting on 15th March 2022.

There being no corrections the minutes were agreed unanimously and signed.

3. Matters arising

There were no additional matters arising.

4. **Financial report and Parish Share**

Lynne reported that when she took over as Treasurer there had been two separate Deanery accounts- a Current account and the Quinquennial account. There had been a deficit in the Quinquennial Account (see previous Minutes to see the background of the decision to close the account) which had to be regularly replaced from the current account and the Quinquennial account was now closed. There is now only one Deanery current account.

£5,000 has been put aside by the Deanery for match funding for PCC environmental projects.

There is an additional savings account with CCLA Investment which is held by the Diocese of Oxford. In response to a question from the floor Lynne explained the Deanery Grant income was in effect a refund on the parish share. The accounts were accepted unanimously.

The Area Dean spoke about the Parish Share adjustment which had been passed by Diocesan Synod. Parish Share will go up on average by 2% next year to our Deanery- there is a cap of a 2% rise and we were assessed for slightly more than that. Richard is seeking clarification of the details behind this decision since the Deanery increase hides a wide range of changes for individual parishes. The meeting requested a short, written report on the outcome of this conversation. *(This is attached with the Minutes of this meeting, and will form the main item on the Agenda for the next Deanery Synod in September).*

5. **Deanery Plan**

There was an ambitious plan a year ago but mainly due to covid going on longer than had perhaps been envisioned it has not been possible to make all the progress hoped for. There is a need to evaluate this so it was agreed that the Area Dean and the Rev'd Katie Toogood should review this over the Summer.

6. **Green Agenda and Deanery Grants**

£5,000 has been set aside by the Deanery for 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 calendar year, to match monies raised by the parish. Parishes were sent a poster about applications for this grant and it was agreed that it should be circulated to all parishes again.

It was announced that £10,000,000 is being set aside by the Diocese to make Vicarages more environmentally friendly. It is a big investment and a huge project, and one which was covered favourably in The Guardian.

All Saints have a group focusing on these areas, as do Wargrave and Finchampstead, and it was hoped that such groups might work together and support each other.

7. Area Dean's Notices

John Cook (Wargrave) has been made Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, and we congratulate him on this recognition.

Two people from All Saints are standing back from Synod - John Boylan and the Revd. Colin James. Richard Lamey thanked them for all they have done and told the meeting that Colin had been on Synod for 53 years in 3 differing capacities- first in 1969 serving on the Ruri-Decanal Conference (the predecessor of the Synod) and then (with one short break) on Synod first as lay representative of All Saints then, from 1996, as a licensed minister and in more recent years as one of two representatives of clergy with Permission to Officiate. The meeting applauded him in absentia and the Area Dean said he is being sent a gift and a card.

There is a new member of Synod - Michael Freeman (All Saints) who was welcomed.

Any material for the Deanery Web Site should be sent to Peter Wells - peter.wells@spauls.co.uk

and prayer requests to Hazel Berry - hazel.berry@crowthorneparishchurch.org.uk

Richard then spoke about **Clergy Staffing**.

Richard Eves from Wargrave and Becky Medicott from All Saints are to be priested at Petertide this year.

The Revd. Anna Harwood leaves Ruscombe, Twyford and Hurst on 26th June to take up a post in Cardiff, Wales. There will then be 4 vacancies in the Deanery.

Laura Downs has been appointed the new Incumbent at Crowthorne and her induction will be on 13th October 2022- everyone was encouraged to put the date in their diary. She is moving to the Deanery from a Curacy in Portishead.

John Castle is on a 3 month sabbatical which seems to be going well. He returns at the end of July.

The Revd. Jane Kraft announced that the Revd. Alan Pounce has died.

8. AOB

Christine Walker spoke about Ride and Stride- she was keen to raise awareness of the event which raises funds for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust and encourage churches to join in. The event raises funds BHCT but also for participating churches. She wished to encourage churches to be open on the day or have the form to sign on the door for participants to register their visit. The event is held on the 2nd Saturday in September which this year is 10th September. All church co-coordinators should have been informed and more publicity is on the way.

Richard reported on the Diocesan Clergy Conference which was very good with excellent teaching from Bishop Steven on 2 Corinthians and 3 outstanding keynote speakers- the Rt Hon Paul Boateng, the Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, and the Rev'd Dr Isabelle Hamley. Visit the Diocesan YouTube to hear the talks and Bp. Steven's Bible Studies.

Richard invited suggestions for Speakers and Topics for next year's Synod meetings.

The Revd. Canon David Hodgson report on the refurbishment of All Saints. It is at present an "empty shell". The demolition work has finished, they are about to embark on the rebuilding process and are discussing the best use of space. They are appealing for funds for chairs and rebuilding of the Organ. They are talking to local Charities in the Town. It is hoped that the work will be completed by November 2022.

9. Closing Prayers

These were led by the Revd. Canon Richard Lamey and we shared the grace together
The meeting ended at 9.28pm.

Next meeting Wednesday 28th September 2022

Venue to be announced

Main topic- parish share.