

## MINUTES OF THE ROMSEY DEANERY SYNOD – WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2015 AT ROMSEY CHURCH ROOMS

|                                 |    |                                   |   |
|---------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Present:</b> House of Clergy | 8  | <b>Apologies:</b> House of Clergy | 1 |
| House of Laity                  | 25 | House of Laity                    | 4 |
| Visitors                        | 2  |                                   |   |

1. The meeting opened with worship led by Simon Crispin, on placement in Romsey Parish under the Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme.
2. The Area Dean welcomed new members attending their first meeting.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting** of 18 June 2015 were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising :**
  - 4.1. The Communications Day provided by the Diocese (paragraph 4.3) had been well attended and well received, although it focussed on print media rather than social media.
5. **Committee Reports**
  - 5.1. General Synod
    - The Revd Rosalind Rutherford had provided a written report of the February General Synod, circulated with papers.
    - The Area Dean congratulated the Revd James Pitkin (House of Clergy) and Jay Greene (House of Laity) both from Lockerley benefice on their election to represent Winchester Diocese at General Synod.
  - 5.2. Diocesan Synod
    - There are still two lay vacancies for Romsey Deanery representatives to Diocesan Synod. This involves three meetings a year (held on Saturdays), and the next term would include the Residential Conference in October 2016. **ACTION:** Anyone interested should contact the Deanery Synod Secretary.
  - 5.3. Overseas Mission Committee
    - John Cook has taken over as Chairman of the Committee. The Area Dean thanked him, and Dick Hewett for acting as Chairman during the interregnum. John Cook's report had been circulated.
    - Bishop Jackson and his wife Dorothy were currently visiting the Deanery.
  - 5.4. Vision and Strategy Group
    - The following events were planned:
      - Pre-Advent Course "Living Disciples"** on Wednesdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November at Poppies.
      - Deanery Shoebox Service** Sunday 15 November at St Leonards, Sherfield English  
Leaflets for both events were available to take away for parishes, or can be downloaded from the Deanery Website.
      - Deanery Confirmation** Sunday 22 November at Romsey Abbey  
**ACTION:** Parishes were asked to let Romsey Parish Office know if they had candidates for confirmation, to help with planning for the service.  
A Deanery-wide preparation course, "It's time", is being held at David Potterton's home, 15 Mount Temple, Romsey at 7.30pm – 9pm for the next six Thursdays.
      - Fresh Expressions in Rural Ministry** – Saturday 30 January 2016 Training day 10am to 4pm at Braishfield Church Room, with follow-up meeting on the evening of Thursday 15 September

**Deanery Ascension Day Service:** Thursday 5 May 2016 at Romsey Abbey, at the start of  
**Deanery Novena of Prayer :** 5 – 15 May between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

#### 5.5. Parish Share Group

- Sarah Boothman reported that payment of parish share was looking good at this point in the year. She thanked everyone for their hard work and commitment which had made this possible. Across the Diocese, payment of share is at 96.6% of target, compared to 92.6% at the same point in 2014.
- Parishes have already been notified of their target for 2016 (sent to PCC Treasurers in June).

### 6. **Deanery accounts 2014 and Budget 2015**

6.1. The Accounts for 2014, as at 31 December 2014 (now approved by independent assessor) had been circulated and were presented to Synod for agreement.

*Proposed:* Sarah Boothman; *Seconded:* Madeleine Sumsion. Approved *nem. con.*

6.2. Following the information provided at the June Synod, the Budget for 2015 had been circulated and was formally presented to Synod for agreement.

*Proposed:* James Pitkin; *Seconded:* Katharine Edmonds. Agreed *nem. con.*

6.3. The Area Dean pointed out that some levies were late in payment and would be added to income for 2015.

6.4. He thanked Debbie Parkes, the Parish Administrator for Romsey, who had acted as Deanery Treasurer for the last year on top of her normal duties. Ian Clark (Romsey) has agreed to take over.

### 7. **Update on pMAP/bMAP**

7.1. All but one Action Plan have been received and were reviewed by the Vision and Strategy Group yesterday. The common themes identified are:

- Lay pastoral visitors
- Lay worship leaders
- Develop worship variety
- Short courses on discipleship; increasing the number of house groups
- Developing communications

7.2. This would provide the working brief for the Vision and Strategy Group for the next couple of years (some items are already being addressed). The dMAP would be reviewed to ensure all of the above are reflected. pMAPs/bMAPs are also to be reviewed and updated regularly to guide work within parishes.

7.3. The Area Dean thanked all for their hard work in producing these documents, and said it had been heartening seeing all the proposals that had been put forward.

7.4. A summary was requested which could be circulated in parishes, to show those involved how the work was fitting together.

7.5. All are invited to attend a service at Winchester Cathedral at noon on Saturday 21 November, when pMAPs/bMAPs will be presented and celebrated, and PCCs will be commissioned to go out and put them into practice.

### 8. **The Venerable Paul Moore – Archdeacon for Mission: Re-imagining Ministry**

8.1. A handout summarising Paul Moore's presentation, which explained the opportunities for different kinds of Mission and the support which is available from the Diocese, will be circulated with these minutes. The presentation was followed by questions from the floor.

- *Is there any age limit for those considering offering themselves as licensed lay ministers?*  
There is a statutory age limit of 70 for those being licensed for formal roles within the church, although no age limit on officiating. It had been proposed to limit funding to those of 50 or under on qualifying, but that has been dropped. There is expected to be a differential based on age.

- *Why do those already working within their churches need to be licensed?* In some situations, the Church will want to ensure that the ministry is approved (for example, all ordained or formal lay ministry roles in the church require a licence); for other roles such as pastoral visiting, no licence is required, but the provision is being made in order to encourage a vocation culture.
- *When training is offered, how is previous experience taken into account?* Some of the training is in the early stages of development but the intention is to take into account previous experience. Lay and ordained courses will overlap so that particular modules will be accessible to those preparing for different licensed roles, allowing for sharing of experience and mixing between different specialisms.
- *Will there be training days?* That is not part of the work currently being developed, but may come in future.
- *How does the Winchester "Pathway" fit in with the national church?* The Winchester Pathway will be a contribution to the national development of Ministry. The Diocese needs to look outwards as well as nurturing its own. The ambition of the Diocese is to double the number of vocations to ordained ministry from 10 currently to 20 per year. This would include 6 pioneer ministers and 10 who would go out to other parts of the church –e.g. Newcastle Diocese, with which Winchester Diocese is linked. There would also be exchange with other Diocese through the normal process of application for posts. All forms of ordination/licensing would be transferrable other than the Bishop's Commission, which is Diocese-specific, but even that is likely to be recognised to demonstrate experience/suitability in any discussions with a new incumbent if someone wished to carry out the same ministry in another Diocese.
- *What funding is available to support individuals in training?* Those on the ordination pathway are eligible for Vote 1 funding from the central funds of the Church of England – although how ordination training is funded is under review. Between 8 -10 ordinands are required to make the pathway viable. At the same time, the School of Mission needs a change of culture to direct resources towards the new courses, and the School will apply to the Church Commissioners for more funding, alongside challenging the Diocese to sacrificial giving to support this part of the mission of the church. Colin Harbidge is touring the Diocese to talk about funding.
- *How would the School deal with the "enthusiastic but unsuitable" volunteer?* There will be a selection process for the Bishop's Commission, involving the individual's incumbent and PCC. For other roles, there would be a process of discernment including the Bishop and diocesan staff.
- *How can individuals be clear about the options available?* That is the purpose of the presentation – please feed back to the parishes. There will be Archdeaconry days in January to further spread the message and a new Vocations Adviser, starting in the New Year, will start to roll out the programme.
- *Once trained and (where appropriate) licensed, will there be ongoing support?* The Church Leadership Training Programme requires continual renewal. There is currently no capacity in the School of Mission for continual ministry development (CMD) programmes, but this is one of the areas for which the School will apply for additional funding.
- *Will an individual be able to offer to pay for their own training?* No system is in place yet, but this will be looked at. It is already an established good principle that PCCs subsidise training costs for their parishioners.
- *The title "Winchester Pathway" was queried. "Pathway" is a technical term for training establishments.*

8.2. In summarising, the Archdeacon challenged Synod representatives to consider who they would encourage to offer their ministry in this way and take part in the programmes on offer.

## 9. Any other business

9.1. Members were reminded to pray for the Revd Victoria Ashdown - to be licensed as the new Priest in Charge for Chilworth, North Baddesley and Ampfield Benefice on Thursday 15 October – and her husband Andrew.

10. The Revd Canon Tim Sledge thanked Ven Paul Moore, and closed the meeting with prayer.

**Date of future Synod meetings :**

Wednesday 27 January 2016 – Open meeting with the Bishop of Winchester. *[Post meeting note: venue now confirmed as Poppies, Choice Plants, Timsbury.]*

Monday 13 June 2016 – Braishfield

Wednesday 12 October – venue to be confirmed

See more details about other events in the Deanery on the Calendar page of <http://www.romseydeanery.org/> .