

MINUTES OF THE ROMSEY DEANERY SYNOD - MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2015 AT STOCKBRIDGE CHURCH

Present: House of Clergy	8	Apologies: House of Clergy	3
House of Laity	19	House of Laity	10

1. The meeting opened with prayers led by the Revd Jonathan Watkins.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** of 6 October 2014 were agreed and signed. There were no **matters arising** not covered by agenda items.
3. **Approval of Deanery Mission Action Plan**
 - 3.1. The Romsey Deanery Mission Action Plan had been prepared following the Deanery Consultation meeting at Lockerley in June 2014, and issued in September 2014. Following discussion at the October Synod meeting, the Plan had been presented at the Diocesan Celebration Service at Winchester Cathedral on 22 November. However, the plan required formal approval by Synod.
 - 3.2. The Area Dean explained that the proposed Resolution was intended to ensure that the dMAP did not just “sit on the shelf”, but became a working document, setting out the Deanery’s aspirations. It would be reviewed annually to ensure that we as a Synod hold ourselves to account. It also needs to be taken into account by PCCs when developing Parish Mission Action Plans (pMAP – now underway).
 - 3.3. The proposed Resolution was circulated with the Agenda:

Resolution for adoption: *“That this Synod adopts the dMAP as a working document for the next three years, addresses the immediate actions for the next 18 months as highlighted in the summary, and asks the Deanery Vision and Strategy group to work with synod to help realise the aspirations in the dMAP. Synod further resolves to discuss and review the dMAP at one of its annual meetings to ensure that we are supporting each other and realising the aspirations set out in the dMAP.”*

 - Proposed : Sarah Boothman
 - Seconded: Adrienne Mordan/Jane Thompson

Adopted by vote, none opposing.
4. **Terms of Reference for Deanery Committees**
 - 4.1. The dMAP/pMAP process represents a change of trajectory for the Diocese – we are working towards being a Mission Shaped Diocese – and so our structures need to support that work. The Standing Committee has developed two sets of terms of reference for consideration and adoption (circulated with Agenda).
 - a. Standing Committee

It is proposed that the Standing Committee (which has until now also been acting as the Mission and Pastoral Committee) should now focus on the shaping and governance of the work of Synod, including the Deanery Budget.

 - Proposed : Jonathan Watkins
 - Seconded: Sue Holligan

Adopted by vote, none opposing.

It was agreed that minutes of Standing Committee meetings should be made available on the website – excluding any necessarily confidential items.

b. Vision and Strategy Group

The Vision Group has already been working to deliver some of our agreed new activities. As reported at the last meeting, it is proposed that the Vision Group be expanded to include representatives of every benefice, and given the responsibility for delivery and future development of the Deanery Mission Action Plan, including use of resources (the role of the Mission and Pastoral Committee), on which it would make recommendations to Standing Committee.

- Proposed : Maddie Sumsion
 - Seconded: Jane Thompson
- Adopted by vote, none opposing.

5. **Committee reports**

5.1. General Synod

The report from the Revd Rosalind Rutherford was circulated. General Synod Elections would take place later in the year, and members were encouraged to take an active interest, and ensure that they voted for those who represented their views on important issues. Anyone with an interest should consider standing themselves.

5.2. Diocesan Synod

Diocesan Synod met at the beginning of November. The Revd. Andrew Micklefield was confirmed as the new Chair of the House of Clergy. The main items of business were dMAP and the Diocesan Lent Course. Feedback on the new system for allocation of parish share was generally positive. Bishop Tim spoke about our Mission Partners, and the scope for mutual support, rather than just considering sending financial support. The Anglican Universities (of which Winchester is one) are considering their distinctive role.

5.3. Overseas Mission Committee

Quentin Stokes' report was circulated. The Area Dean said that Quentin would be leaving the area, and thanked him for his work with the Committee. A new Chairman is now being sought.

Bishop Paisable will be preaching at Romsey Abbey at the end of February. Tim Sledge and two others from Romsey Parish are visiting the Anglican University in Burundi in March.

Sue Holligan reported that the proceeds of a coffee morning in King's Somborne had raised funds to train a mid-wife to work in the remote villages in South Rwenzori.

5.4. Vision Group

The report of Lay Leader training had been circulated. It was agreed the group should meet regularly. There had been good representation (14 out of about 20 lay leaders in the Deanery) had attended.

5.5. Children's Group

The Revd Pitkin's report had been circulated. As the Vision and Strategy Group would include work with children and young people, the Children's Group would therefore no longer continue as a separate group. The Area Dean thanked Ron Corne and Broughton parish for hosting a very successful Shoebox Service in November.

5.6. Parish Share Group

The report was circulated with the papers for the meeting. At year end, Romsey Deanery was shown as meeting its commitment in full – although this was in part due to an overpayment (in error) by Romsey Parish! The Area Dean thanked everyone for the really hard work involved to achieve such a good result. We should celebrate the success and use it to give energy to next year's efforts.

6. Deanery Week of Prayer 16 – 21 March 2015: “Exploring the Treasure Trove of Prayer”

- 6.1. The Revd Chris Pettet introduced this, which is one of the actions identified in the Deanery Mission Action Plan. Each parish is asked to arrange one prayer event between Monday and Friday, which could be as part of an existing programme, but it would be good to do something new. Materials will be provided.
- 6.2. On Saturday 21st, Ann Lewin will lead a workshop at Romsey Abbey (9.30 for 10am until 1.30pm). Members were invited to suggest inputs that would be useful for that event. It would be possible to attend for all or part of the morning.
- 6.3. Members were encouraged to
 - publicise the dates through magazines/bulletins;
 - provide details of their parish events to Sarah Boothman (seboothman@aol.com) by 14 February.

7. Any other business

- 7.1. The Area Dean reported a discussion at the recent Standing Committee meeting, when it was recognised that it is difficult for the Synod to function as an effective body, when we only meet three times a year. It is therefore proposed that in each benefice, Deanery Synod representatives should aim to meet together in advance of the Synod meeting. That would help us to arrive prepared.
- 7.2. In addition, there was a suggestion that seating for meetings should avoid “rows”, so that members can see each other. This was agreed for future meetings, wherever possible.
- 7.3. Members also asked for more notice of events

8. How to Pray

The Revd Sally Dakin provided guidance on learning to pray as individuals, in groups, and as a church. She stressed the importance of different people’s dominant senses (auditory, visual or kinesthetic) and trying to include something of all of these when leading others in prayer. She provided many examples of ways of praying and tools for prayer. Using the imagery of growing plants, Sally also spoke about the need for planting seed as well as watering (something specific to pray about as well as time to pray), and encouraged us to choose five people to pray for regularly for five weeks .

9. Sally closed the meeting with a prayer for growth developed by churches in Berkshire.

Date of future Synod meetings in 2015

Thursday 18 June – Rownhams
Wednesday 14 October – Braishfield/Timsbury

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