

MINUTES OF THE ROMSEY DEANERY SYNOD - MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2014 AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH, NORTH BADDESLEY

Present: House of Clergy	8	Apologies: House of Clergy	2
House of Laity	24	House of Laity	9

1. A Communion Service was held to mark the first meeting of the new Triennium. The Area Dean spoke about William Tyndale's passion for letting people hear and read the Bible in the English language and how the Mission Action Plan is intended to help us too spread the Word in ways that people today can understand.
2. New members were welcomed. They are Jay Greene (Lockerley), Jane Rimmington (West Tytherley), Peter Hill (Michelmersh), John Glasspool (Timsbury), Barbara Parker and Fiona Jenvey (Romsey), Tom Palmer (Leckford), Jane Coomer and Isabel Murray (Nursling with Rownhams), Brenda Bennett, Barbara North and Joan Evans (Stockbridge), Quentin Stokes (Chairman of Overseas Mission Committee ex officio).
3. **Deanery Mission Action Plan – Next Steps**
 - 3.1. Following the Deanery Consultation meeting at Lockerley in June, the Vision Group had looked at the information gathered and the ideas for action, and had selected a number which were considered important and achievable over the next 18 months. These were shown in the Summary of the Action plan which had been circulated, and also in the first column of the grid circulated to guide and record PCC discussions. The "offers" and "needs" from these grids will be collated for further consideration.
 - 3.2. Members were invited to discuss these in groups, after which the following points were made:
 - SP1 Discipleship –
 - "Grouped" confirmation services were intended to free up the Bishops for other work in churches.
 - Getting young people together for Confirmation preparation was generally considered a good thing, but this should also be extended to adult preparation.
 - Publicity – Some would welcome help with putting together parish websites and other publicity material
 - We need to get better at networking – finding out who to contact about what in each parish.
 - SP2 Re-imagine Church
 - In some villages it would be helpful to work with other Christian denominations.
 - SP3 Social Transformation
 - Mutual support for safeguarding officers would be welcomed.
 - There is a lot already going on under this heading (e.g. Basics Banks, environmental awards) so the Vision Group did not feel it necessary to create a lot of new actions.
 - SP4 Living together generously
 - Some who have had successful giving campaigns are happy to share their experience with others.
 - Strong biblical teaching on giving and stewardship could be provided.
 - 3.4 The Area Dean explained that in order to deliver the Action Plan and to work together better, the Deanery committee structure would be re-vamped. The Standing Committee – which has recently

also had the role of the Mission and Pastoral Committee – will deal with finance, governance and other decisions. The Vision Group will be merged with the Mission and Pastoral Committee, and will take responsibility for delivery of the Action Plan. It would also consider and pastoral reorganisation alongside the rest of the Synod. Membership of this group will be reviewed to ensure that every benefice is represented. The details need to be worked through, and proposals will be put to the February Synod.

4. Synod Elections

House of Laity:

Sarah Boothman, Lay Chair, Julie Carlton Synod Secretary and Jane Thompson current Lay representative on Standing Committee were happy to stand again. There were no other nominations, and all were re-elected by vote.

Sue Holligan (Somborne with Ashley) was elected to fill the lay vacancy on the Standing Committee.

The meeting thanked current post holders for their work over the last three years.

House of Clergy:

Chapter Clerk and Assistant Secretary to Synod – Hilary Healey

Standing Committee Clergy Members – James Pitkin and Jonathan Watkins

5. **Minutes of the previous meeting** of 12 February 2014 were agreed and signed.

6. Matters arising

6.1. General Synod representative

- Canon David Williams has been appointed Bishop of Basingstoke, and so will no longer be able to act as the Deanery's liaison point with General Synod. The Revd Rosalind Rutherford has been appointed to take his place.

7. Committee reports

7.1. Diocesan Synod

- A summary of the June Synod meeting, which discussed the new parish share system was handed out at the meeting.

7.2. Overseas Mission Committee

- Quentin Stokes' report was circulated. The visit from Canon Josephat and Rev Alice in June had been very successful, and Sarah Boothman thanked all involved.
- Jane Horne presented the OMC Accounts for 2013. Over £17,000 had been sent to South Rwenzori in 2013, and Jane thanked in particular the generous giving in response to the floods. Houghton Parish has a standing order to the Committee which is very helpful, and others were encouraged to consider this. The accounts were accepted by the Synod.
- Jane will be visiting South Rwenzori next year to view the projects which Romsey donations support. It was agreed it was important to ensure that information about the work done got out to Deanery parishes.

7.3. Children's Group

- The Revd Pitkin's report had been circulated. Life Expo had been a successful venture and would be repeated.

7.4. Youth Advisory Group

- There had been no meeting since the February Synod.

7.5. Parish Share Group

- Figures based on the new Share Allocation scheme had been circulated to PCC Treasurers, and the Group had met to consider. 2015 would be a "transition" year, and there was very

encouraging news from all parishes about their commitment. The total share for the Deanery would be around £670k. Particular thanks to Lockerley which has a 10% decrease in its share as a result of the revised scheme, but will hold those funds within the benefice next year in case they are needed to meet the Deanery allocation.

8. Deanery Budget for 2014

8.1. The Budget was presented. This is very late because there was no June Synod meeting.

8.2. The account ended last year with a healthy balance, so although the projected income was down for 2014 (because of a drop in the electoral roll figures) it had been possible to keep the Parish Levy unchanged at £22 per 50 on the electoral role, and there was no additional levy for youth work in 2014.

8.3. The meeting accepted the budget.

9. Any other business

- The Diocese has produced a very clear booklet explaining how parish share is used. Copies were available to take away for distribution in parishes.
- Samaritans Purse leaflets were also available for collection.
- The Revd Peter Gilks has been appointed Team Rector of Parkway and Danebury on the west of Andover. He and Jackie will be leaving around the end of the year (dates still uncertain). The Area Dean thanked Peter for his ministry and contribution to the Deanery and wished him and his family well.

10. The meeting ended with a hymn and the blessing.

Deanery Course:

“Lost for Words” Wednesdays 12 and 26 November and 4 December and Thursday 12 December at Poppies, Choice Plants, Timsbury.

Date of Synod meetings in 2015

Monday 2 February – Stockbridge Town Hall

Thursday 18 June – venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 14 October – venue to be confirmed

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