

## MINUTES OF THE ROMSEY DEANERY SYNOD - THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2013 AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH ROOMS, NORTH BADDESLEY

1. The Revd Ron Corne, Rural Dean, opened the meeting with prayers, and welcomed those attending their first meeting (the Revd. Gill Nobes, Assistant Curate in the Broughton Benefice, and Jonathan DeVile, North Baddesley). Because of a clash of dates with a benefice meeting, the Revd Jonathan Watkins and representatives of the parishes of Leckford, Longstock and Stockbridge were unable to attend.

2.	<b>Present:</b>	House of Clergy	10	<b>Apologies:</b>	House of Clergy	3
		House of Laity	22		House of Laity	12

3. The **minutes of the previous meeting** of 21 June 2012 were agreed and signed.

### 4. **Matters arising**

#### a. Report of Emmaus Week

A written report had been produced (circulated after the meeting). The Rural Dean thanked all those involved in preparing for and hosting events during the week. It had been a very worthwhile time, and Bishop Jonathan had been very pleased with the programme and the outcome. It is planned that a similar event will take place in each Deanery every two years.

### 5. **Committee reports**

#### a. General Synod

Our representative on General Synod, John Davies sent his apologies for the meeting, as he is out of the country. A report from the General Synod website had been circulated.

#### b. Diocesan Synod

Madeleine Sumsion had produced a report of the December meeting of Diocesan Synod – circulated in advance.

#### c. Support Group for Work with Children

The report had been circulated.

#### d. Youth Advisory Group

The report had been circulated. There were two corrections: Under "Schools", in the third paragraph, replace "Williams" with "Watkins". Under "Element", the last meeting was in Broughton, not Braishfield.

#### e. Parish Share Group

Each parish should have received a Porch Card from the Diocese saying thank you for last year's payment of share, and giving a breakdown of how the funds were spent. Sarah Boothman congratulated the Deanery on its success in meeting the share commitments for 2012, with most parishes making a full payment, and across the Diocese there was 98% collection of share. Very few Deaneries were able to make commitments to meet the Diocesan targets for 2013, and have been asked to review what they can do. Sarah thanked those in the Romsey Deanery who have increased their commitments as a result. Discussions are continuing with Test Valley Benefice over their commitment for 2013.

### 6. **Deanery Accounts for 2011 and Budget for 2012**

Garry Hedley, Deanery Treasurer, presented the accounts.

#### 6.1 Youth Minister Account 2012:

Now that the Deanery no longer has a Youth Minister, the Standing Committee has agreed that the Youth Minister account should be wound up with the credit balance (£452.41) being transferred to the general fund, but ring-fenced for Deanery Youth Work.

#### 6.2 General Fund Account 2012:

The account had benefited from two "one off" credits. £2710 held by the Diocese, which is the Deanery share of fees, has been drawn down on request from the Standing Committee as a Mission Fund. In addition a total of £405 from two obsolete Deanery Social Work funds has been transferred into the account. This leaves the fund with a very comfortable balance to carry forward.

The accounts for 2012 were accepted by Synod by general assent.

### 6.3 Deanery Budget for 2013

The budget for 2013 is broken down into three elements.

- (i) The Mission Fund will be reserved for Mission Work in the Deanery ( yet to be identified, but an example in 2012 was Emmaus Week, which incurred expenses for publicity and hospitality).
- (ii) The expenses of running the Deanery and Synod (the General Fund) were expected to be similar to this year. Given the healthy balance in the account, the parish levy is proposed to remain at £22 per 50 on the electoral role.
- (iii) The budget for youth work in the Deanery is uncertain for 2013, as the first full year without a Youth Minister. A levy of £8 per 50 on the electoral role is proposed. This replaced the £100 per parish levied last year, and is a decrease for every parish except Romsey.

**Budget and Levy for 2013 Proposed – Sarah Boothman; Seconded – Derek Allen (Ampfield).**

The budget and levy was accepted by general assent.

## **7. Benefice Presentation**

7.1 The Revd Peter Gilks talked about the joining of Ampfield Parish with Chilworth and North Baddesley Benefice five years ago. There were no obvious links – including transport links - between Ampfield and the rest of the Benefice.

7.2 The practical decision was made early on for all parishes to use the same lectionary, although they had different services.

7.3 Looking at the pros and cons, Ampfield had lost their resident incumbent (and since, their Vicarage), and the link with Hursley (moved into the Winchester Deanery). North Baddesley had less access to their Vicar, and one service at St John's had to be cut. On the positive side, both ends of the benefice benefited from a larger ministry team, a larger pool of talent (e.g. organists) and had gained a wider circle of friendships. North Baddesley gains from the availability of a larger church, which has been used for funerals, for example, and the lovely site and parish room at Ampfield. The Ampfield Parish Council also encourages use of the woodland area, and Ampfield School is now able to draw children from across the benefice. Ampfield has retained its services, with one per month now led by a lay team. There is more travelling for the clergy team, but that is common to most of the benefices in the Deanery.

7.4 Consideration was given to moving to a single PCC, and that is still an option open for the next few years under the legal process but so far that is not the intention.

7.5 In 2004, North Baddesley Parish started to consider redeveloping the site of All Saints Church with a view to building a new church. This would be funded by the sale of land and from Grants and Trusts. However, the credit crunch then hit and no grants were offered. Planning permission was granted, but it became clear that there would not be sufficient parking for both the Church and flats (which were needed to help fund the building).

7.6 Plans have therefore been significantly revised, with a view to keeping the existing Church and Church Room, but building on improved rooms and entrance area, which would be available for community use. This could be done in two phases, the first of which (new rooms at the back of the church for community use) was attracting some grant funding and could start in the next few years.

## **8. Overseas Mission Committee Presentation.**

Angela Jones presented information about the history of the Deanery Overseas Links with South Rwenzori in Uganda, Burma, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, illustrated with photographs from the visits between the Romsey and

our partner churches. The Revd Julian Williams spoke about his experience of the church in South Rwenzori, and the Revd Tim Sledge spoke about the Abbey trip to Burundi in 2011.

Angela then talked about a number of the projects that the Deanery had supported and explained the current project in South Rwenzori which is a tree nursery, to provide income but also supporting the church's ecological work in the region. Parishes are encouraged to raise money for this, and to continue to support other projects, including the orphan sponsorship programme and the tailoring and carpentry workshops.

Anyone interested in a visit to Uganda is encouraged to speak to a member of the Committee. The Committee would also welcome more members from around the Deanery.

**9. The meeting closed with prayer.**

**10. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 17 June at Mottisfont Village Hall.