

## MINUTES OF THE ROMSEY DEANERY SYNOD - MONDAY 17 JUNE 2013 AT MOTTISFONT VILLAGE HALL

1. The Revd Ron Corne, Rural Dean, opened the meeting, and the Revd Gill Nobes led worship.

2. <b>Present:</b>	House of Clergy	9	<b>Apologies:</b>	House of Clergy	5
	House of Laity	23		House of Laity	11

### 3. Deanery Vision

3.1. The Revd Stephen Pittis reminded members that last June, he and the Revd Tim Sledge had presented a summary of outcomes of discussion of the Vision in individual parishes. This had shown there were many common factors, as well as reflecting the different viewpoint from different parishes. A small group is now looking at how to take this forward, and the purpose of the discussion at this meeting was to ensure everyone had a further opportunity to express their views.

3.2. He stressed that the Deanery Vision should add value to what is already happening in individual parishes and benefices, by providing shared objectives and encouraging sharing of resources.

3.3. For this to work, everyone needed to feel the Vision belongs to them; and leadership was needed, to set priorities, aims and develop strategies.

3.4. "Vision" is discerning under God where we are going and how to get there. A sheet was circulated (attached) setting out the priorities identified last year.

3.5. We now have a Deanery Website ([www.romseydeanery.org](http://www.romseydeanery.org)). This is still in embryonic form, but it will be developed to share information about events in the Deanery, courses and other opportunities for discipleship. Any information for inclusion on the site, or ideas for developing it, should be sent to the Secretary ([Romseydeanerysynodsec@talktalk.net](mailto:Romseydeanerysynodsec@talktalk.net)). Photos would also be welcome – of churches, but particularly also of people "being Church".

3.6. The Vision Group had also agreed that a pre-advent course will be held for four Wednesdays (13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December) at Poppies, Choice Plants, Timsbury, with teaching and refreshments.

3.7. The meeting then split into groups to discuss questions about how we are already addressing, or can develop, each of the priorities in our parishes or as a Deanery.

3.8. It was felt that a forum was needed to share experiences in mission – the web site was one way of doing this. Shared training opportunities should be arranged (where one parish may not have the resources to deliver, or the demand for their own course – for example, lay pastoral ministry, healing ministry or lay leadership of worship). But the point was made that it was important to bring help to the outlying parishes, not always to expect those from outlying parishes to travel to events.

3.9. The Website could also be used to share details of different types of worship – where individual parishes may not be able to provide a wide variety of worship styles. The demographic of a parish would have an effect on this.

3.10. On Youth work, the success of the Christian unions which Jonathan Kitching had started in the schools was praised. It was noted that this reached many more young people than any of the individual churches can do. But resources were needed to maintain the work.

### 4. Parish Presentation: Mottisfont

4.1. The Revd Gill Nobes spoke about the parish of Mottisfont – apparently a rural idyll, but in fact not a settled community, still undergoing demographic changes as a result of the National Trust making changes on the Mottisfont Abbey Estate and putting up rents. People were moving in who commuted to work, enjoyed the rural life for a while, but did not stay for the long term.

- 4.2. The parish consists of Mottisfont, Dunbridge (which is a more settled community) and Spearywell. There are 250 residents in Mottisfont, but nowhere in the community to meet (no shop or post office). Gill said that, having moved into the parish recently, she used events such as the summer fete, and tourist events at Mottisfont Abbey to meet people, as well as walking in the Test Valley. The church is geographically in the centre of the village (and hosts varieties of bats and bees) but is not at its heart. This might be due to pastoral changes (there has been no resident ordained person in the village for many years, so the Ministry of presence has been lost). There is a “disconnect” between the village and the church, but opportunities were needed to recreate connections.
- 4.3. Gill spoke of the need to discern what God wants us to do in this place. Messy Church, a Pets’ Service and ministry to the tourists at the Abbey have all been developed. Looking to the future for places like Mottisfont, Gill felt that change is inevitable. There has to be a “ministry of all the baptised” so that (in Mottisfont) the work can continue after Gill moves on. And the ministry has to be relevant to those we are ministering too.
5. The **minutes of the previous meeting** of 7 February were agreed and signed, subject to an amendment to paragraph 8, the first sentence of which now reads:  
“..Deanery Overseas Links with South Rwenzori in Uganda, Burma, Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.”
6. **Matters arising** – None
7. **Deanery Committee reports**
- 7.1. Diocesan Synod
- 7.1.1. The report of the meeting in March had been circulated.
- 7.1.2. Five young people from the Deanery would be attending the Diocesan Synod Conference in September. The average age of Diocesan Synod is 61, so it is very important to involve younger people.
- 7.2. Overseas Mission Committee
- 7.2.1. Angela Jones’ report had been circulated. This reported on the devastating floods in Kasese, South Rwenzori. The Mission Committee is running an appeal for flood relief, and Jane Horne thanked two PCCs which had made donations. So far, the Committee had £960.60 to send out at the beginning of July and further donations would be welcome.
- 7.2.2. Jane then presented the accounts (circulated with papers for the meeting) for the Overseas Mission Committee for 2012. These showed a drop in donations compared to 2011, but the apparent drop in Gift Aid receipts was because the figure for 2011 included two year’s receipts. The Committee had paid out slightly more than this year’s receipts in donations this year.
- 7.2.3. Synod was invited to adopt the accounts. Sarah Boothman proposed, and Alan Parks seconded. There were no votes against, and the accounts were adopted.
- 7.3. Children’s Group
- 7.3.1. The Revd Pitkin’s report had been circulated. Anyone who wished to be added to the group should send details to the e-mail address provided. Everyone encouraged to publicise, support and if possible attend the **Shoebbox Service** at St John Lockerley on **Sunday 17 November at 3pm**.
- 7.4. Youth Advisory Group
- 7.4.1. The Revd Tim Sledge’s report had been circulated.
- 7.5. Parish Share Group
- 7.5.1. Sarah Boothman, as chair of the Parish Share Group, thanked everyone for the continuing efforts and good results. She urged parishes to pay whatever could be afforded each month, even if this was not the full amount promised, as this helps with cash flow for the Diocese. For 2014, a 2.2% increase is expected for our Deanery, but is not yet confirmed.
8. **Closing prayers** were led by Sarah Boothman (Lay co-Chairman), and included prayers for the Revd Gill Nobes, to be ordained priest at the end of June.
9. **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 9 October at Sherfield English Village Hall.