

# SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at St George's Brockworth

**Present:**

Clergy: Canon H Sammon Revds: L Bloom, J Longuet-Higgins, S Mason, J Walden, S Taylor, S Skepper, P Phillips, J Hyde, P Donald

Laity: Mr N Hogg, Mrs L Vogwell, Mr C Hickson, Mrs L Ashenden, Mr P Ingram, Mr R Cook, Canon R Parker, Mrs C Wilman, Mr R Ensor, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs R Clowes, Mr D Sanderson, Mrs C Steadman, Mrs B Fellowes, Mr S Fellowes, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Cowdrey, Mrs J Smith, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr S Riddick, Mrs F Down, Mrs S Padfield, Mrs S Hargreave

**Apologies:**

Clergy: Canon J Perkin, Revds: S Monk, S Cooke, D Browne, S Godsell

Laity: Mrs K Carpenter, Ms H Dunford, Mr G Goodman, Mr G Davies, Mr D Starr, Mr C Hill, Mrs J Bates, Dr A Nicol, Mrs E Frampton, Dr A Holland, Mrs R Blandford, Mr D Wright, Mrs C Langham, Mrs S Bell, Mrs A Venables, Mrs R Cottell

In Attendance: Fay Price, Ali Herbet

Sue welcomed everyone and thanked Brockworth for hosting. There were no new members.

Jane Walden led the opening devotions based around abundant life in John's gospel.

**The minutes** of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June were approved and Sue noted that Chantal Whitehouse from St Andrew's who had spoken at the synod had agreed to be the deanery contact and adviser for churches looking to improve their eco footprint. Her details will be added to the deanery website. John Longuet-Higgins reported on the summer's sports ministry events which were successful despite low attendance. Notification needs to be improved through social media etc. However, a number of good leaders have emerged so it might happen more often.

**Development Fund:** Simon reported that Kathryn Warner is now heading all the LIFE groups as well as the Development Fund. She and Bishop Robert are very supportive. It is expected that our application should go through quicker because so much preparation has already been done. There is a small working group aided by John Truscott. We are hoping for more representation from the deanery and Severn Vale is being used by the diocese as a pilot for the whole development fund.

**LIFE Stories:** Members were once again invited to share events and initiatives that were currently happening in their benefices under one or more of the LIFE headings and most were able to report successes in different areas. It is still planned to make available an email address to which pictures and summary notes can be sent for publication on the deanery website and forwarding to the diocese but, in the meantime please send anything to Simon (mason.s1@btinternet.com)

**GHCT:** Sarah Hargreave then gave an extensive report on her project to visit all the churches in the diocese in support of the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust and the Ride and Stride initiative which helps fund it. In all she had visited 662 historic churches including some catholic and some in the old Gloucester Diocese which used to extend almost to the river Avon in Bristol. She went with the older and very young and those with disabilities in mind and assessed each place against the needs of these groups in particular. Many churches failed on several counts but much could be done to improve things for little or no cost but a lot of attention to detail especially in regard to notices and signage to encourage visitors not familiar with the location. She had many helpful suggestions which, hopefully, will be reported on the website.

**Parish Share:** Roger showed an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the history of church funding explaining how the Church Commissioners are no longer able to support the cost of ministry and how the not-so-new Parish Share system is calculated. It is hoped that this presentation will also be available on the website but there is already a Parish Share calculator there so that each benefice can see exactly how their allocation is determined. Roger once again issued a plea that each benefice should agree the amount they will commit to by the end of September each year. This amount will be regarded as a promise to be kept if at all possible but to let Roger know as soon as possible if it cannot be met. The deanery has it meet the full allocation and, if some fall short, others have to make it up. Simon asked that, if any benefice was able to give more than their allocation, this should be paid into deanery funds rather than the diocese as this helps in many ways. Churches that have paid over their allocation in the past have had that amount added to their allocation by the diocese the following year. This year a shortfall of £589 was met from deanery funds.

### **Reports:**

- a. **Chair of the House of Clergy:** Helen Sammon offered no report.
- b. **Treasurer:** Steve reported that the finances were in good shape and all had paid their subscription.
- c. **Healing Ministry:** Philippa Donald reported on a meeting of all deanery advisers (each deanery should have both a clergy and a lay adviser but many have only clergy) with Sheila Appleton the Bishop's adviser on healing. Preparations are being made for a Diocesan Celebration of Healing and Wholeness, a day of worship, teaching, prayer stations and prayer ministry. +Rachel will be the speaker and preside at a Eucharist in the afternoon. Venue - St Andrew's, Churchdown 10.00 - 4.30pm. The Deanery Healing Advisory Group has formed a sub-group to look at material available to train, enable and equip interested parishes or Benefices in prayer ministry. They have chosen the Acorn course (5 sessions) and hope to be able to offer this in the spring. Sheila Appleton will speak on this at the clergy day on Oct 31st and have packs of the material for people to look at. There have already been 3 enquiries, which is very encouraging. Please contact Philippa if you would like to know more.
- d. **Diocesan Synod:** This meeting is in November
- e. **Lay Training:** On Saturday 2nd February there will be a training day at Lawn Farm, Corse 3.30-5.30pm at which St John's Churchdown will share their "Blue Christmas" - a special Christmas service for the bereaved in partnership with local funeral directors and Holy Innocents' Highnam will share their "Summer Churchyard Service" - a special outdoor service for the bereaved. There will be training for Messy Church Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January
- f. **General Synod:** Robert had circulated links to useful articles but no concise report was available.

**Deanery Secretary:** Sue advised the synod that Robert is looking to hand over the job in the early part of next year and so a successor is urgently needed.

**Revd Pat Phillips** is retiring as Bishop's visitor for retired clergy and will be replaced by David Sutch. Simon presented Pat with flowers and thanked her for her work.

**News and Sharing:** It was noted that the One Show Children in Need Rickshaw Challenge will be passing through our deanery. Details need to be researched.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February