

# SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at St Andrew's Churchdown

## **Present:**

Clergy: Canons J Perkin, H Sammon Revds: L Bloom, D Gill, J Longuet-Higgins, S Mason, S Cooke, J Walden, S Taylor, S Skepper, P Phillips

Laity: Canon R Parker, Mrs K Carpenter, Ms H Dunsford, Mrs R Cottell, Mrs H Cotton, Mrs L Vogwell, Mrs L Ashenden, Mr G Goodman, Mr G Davies, Mr D Starr, Mr R Cook, Mr C Hill, Dr A Nicol, Mrs C May, Mr R Ensor, Mrs D Bach, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs R Clowes, Mr D Sanderson, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Cowdrey, Mr C Thomson, Mrs R Blandford, Mr C Jakeman, Mr D Wright, Mrs C Langham, Mrs S Bell, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr P Cotton, Mr A Clive, Mrs J Churchill-Wood, Mr S Riddick, Mrs F Down, Mrs S Padfield, Mrs S Hargreave

In Attendance: Mrs A Venables – West of Severn

## **Apologies:**

Clergy: Revds: J Hyde, S Monk, A Jones, D Browne, P Donald

Laity: Mr N Hogg, Mr C Hickson, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs C Wilman, Mrs B Fellowes, Mr S Fellowes, Mrs E Frampton, Mrs J Smith, Dr A Holland

Simon welcomed members to the meeting and especially new members Dave Starr, Churchdown St Andrew's, Linda Vogwell, Brockworth and Robert Ensor, Flaxley

Jonathan Perkin led the opening worship quoting from the prophet Amos and urging us to seek God.

Dan Button gave a presentation on Gloucestershire Theology School (GTS) and encouraged everyone to not think of theology as too academic but accessible and valuable to all. Courses can be tailored to needs and happen anywhere and be flexible in length and content. Feedback has shown that it is well received wherever it has happened. Website: [www.gtstheology.org](http://www.gtstheology.org)

This was followed by a presentation by Chantal Whitehouse on St Andrew's experience of working for and obtaining the A Rocha silver Eco Church award and the relatively simple ways that both church and individuals can be eco-friendly through recycling and simple ways of avoiding waste plus ensuring that the children are eco aware from an early age.

**The minutes** of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February were approved and no matters arose.

**Diocesan Synod Election:** By the date of the election nomination forms had been received from 3 clergy and 4 lay members. We are entitled to 7 clergy and 8 lay members so these were elected without contest. Members were asked if there were any nominations and 2 clergy and 3 lay were proposed, seconded and approved. Our representatives are Canons J Perkin, H Sammon and R Parker, Revds, D Gill, S Taylor, S Cooke, J Longuet-Higgins, Mr C Hill, Mr G Davies, Mr S Riddick, Mrs C May, Mrs A Venables, Mrs S Padfield. Revd Simon Mason will be ex-officio as Area Dean in the new triennium.

**Development Fund:** Simon reported that the fund trustees were very supportive of our proposal for chaplaincy at Newent Community School. In addition, we have been invited as a deanery to explore a pilot with Kathryn Warner as project manager and with a consultant John Truscott which would appoint four lay members of the deanery to take on roles such as churchyard administration and working on various other required submissions. These would be part time and complement what is already happening and hope to relieve clergy tensions.

**Training events:** Several have already happened and been successful with positive feedback. Others are still in the pipeline. Helen Sammon suggested the need for a Severn Vale house style for the publicity of future ones.

**Sports Ministry:** John Longuet-Higgins reported that the Pulse Games run in collaboration with SU and PSALMS had been well supported. About 400 children had been involved in the schools event which had a football theme and focussing on the value of perseverance. The response of both teachers and children had been very good. The event provided an opportunity for primary school children about to graduate to secondary school an opportunity to meet with their future peers from other schools which pleased parents and gave positive feedback. A camp is planned for the end of August with a family day at Newent Community School in September.

### **Reports:**

- a. **Chair of the House of Clergy:** Helen Sammon summarised her duties which include serving on Bishop's Council, helping to decide the agenda for Diocesan Synod. She represents clergy to the senior staff and supports their wellbeing. She also has a national networking role meeting with chairs of other dioceses.
- b. **Treasurer:** Steve reported that the finances were in good shape but Tibberton, Longhope, and Upleadon had still not paid their £10 subscription.
- c. **Parish Share:** Roger circulated the details of contributions so far and said we were roughly where we should be for the time of year. If members would like to email him he can provide an explanation of how PS is determined. [r.sparker@btinternet.com](mailto:r.sparker@btinternet.com)
- d. **Diocesan Synod:** The report of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June had been circulated but Robert urged members to look at the link to the summary of the report 'Setting God's People Free'
- e. **General Synod:** The next meeting is in July

**Diocesan Stipends Fund:** Roger outlined the process by which the fund, which provides an annual income to the diocese of around £500,000, is distributed. Until the revision of Parish Share allocation this had been distributed evenly to offset Parish Share but, beginning last year, half is now allocated according to "bias to the poor" and the other half allocated based on bids made by deaneries. Sue and John LH had been to the bid meeting and felt our bid was well received but they are still waiting for the result and it is hoped that we should know the deanery parish share figure by the end of July. This will then be allocated to benefices. PCCs must give approval to the amount they agree to pay by the end of September even if this requires a special PCC meeting. (Note: Roger said that the Stipends Fund had produced an annual income of £800,000 but subsequent information suggested that the actual figure is currently around £450,000 - £500,000)

**LIFE Stories:** Members were invited to share events and initiatives that were currently happening in their benefices under one or more of the LIFE headings and there was an encouraging response. It is 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.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at St George's Brockworth