

# SEVERN VALE DEANERY

## Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at Bromesberrow Village Hall

### Present:

Clergy: Canon R Mitchell, Revds: J Walden, A Lomas, J Bond, J Longuet-Higgins, S Hobbs  
Lay: Mrs H Cotton, Mr N Hogg, Mrs E Ashenden, Mr R Ashenden, Mr T Wiltshire, Mr R Cook, Mr C Hill, Mrs M Billingham, Mrs J Bates, Canon R Parker, Dr A Nichol, Mrs C May, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs M Mitchell, Mrs J Corless, Mrs H Witcomb, Mrs R Blandford, Mr C Jakeman, Mrs A Godwin, Mrs S Hargreave, Mrs M Barclay, Mr P cotton, Miss K Creese, Mrs D Bach, Mrs S Padfield  
In attendance: Mr J Kear, Canon A Braddock.

### Apologies:

Clergy: Revds: K Morgan, P Donald, S Dangerfield, A Jones, S Taylor, J Perkin, C Sterry, P West.  
Lay: Mr R Wall, Mrs R Cottell, Mrs P Walker, Mr G Davies, Mrs V Bolch, Mr P Stephenson, Mr W Meath-Baker, Mrs J Frost, Mrs M Richardson, Mr M Heylings, Mrs J Heylings, Mrs K Thompson, Mrs C Hitchins.

**Opening Prayers:** were led by Rev. Tony Lomas with the comment that Bromesberrow was frontier ministry being only 1 mile in each direction from Hereford and from Worcester dioceses.

**Welcomes:** Sue welcomed any recently elected members to the synod.

**Minutes:** of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March were approved and there were no matters arising.

**Treasurer:** Hazel Cotton thanked those parishes that had arranged their subscriptions by direct debit and reported that only four parishes were currently in arrears. The balance is now £1168.70

**Deanery Secretary:** Sue reported that no-one had been found for this post and again appealed for any recommendations to be submitted to her or Richard as soon as possible and thanked Robert Cook for agreeing to take the minutes for this meeting.

**Youth Work Project:** Jonathan Kear spoke about his work as Together for Youth in which he is a self-employed youth worker who had been involved with youth for 21 years and aims to enable churches to reach into their communities. His concept is based on four stages: - 1) We do, you watch 2) We do, you help 3) You do, we help 4) You do, we watch. He is willing to talk to churches to see what works for them and, if agreed, he will work with them for an hourly fee. There was much emphasis on starting small and working from there. His long term aim is to become a charity. More information can be found at [www.togetherforyouth.co.uk](http://www.togetherforyouth.co.uk).

**Journeying Together:** Roger Parker spoke on the implementation of the Diocesan Mission Statement and presented a professionally printed booklet in which he had drawn together material from a variety of sources, including much from the diocesan website, to provide a quick reference to enable local implementation. He drew particular reference to the centre pages in which sets out in diagram form the steps and options for effective implementation of the mission statement.

He did make particular reference to the problem of finance. The current situation is so severe that, if there is not a speedy improvement, there will be a loss of up to 16 clergy posts across the diocese. Effective ministry in every parish has to include balancing the budget. Effective communication is vital – everyone should know what is going on.

Rev Jane Walden of St Georges Brockworth and Rev Tony Lomas of Leadon Vale benefice spoke of their very different experiences of implementing the mission plan. One had a single church and the other nine (with nine PCCs!) but both were able to report positive progress appropriate to their situations.

Finally Roger concluded with a report on the Parish Share saying that all had paid what they had promised but it was over £100,000 short of what had been requested to cover ministry costs.

**Mission and Ministry Department:** Canon Andrew Braddock, the director, spoke on the work of this new department which was the amalgamation of four former departments including Social Responsibility, Mission, Ministry, Children, and Families and Youth. The reorganisation of Central Services had resulted in the loss of 50% of staff with many posts now being part time or volunteers. The aim is to make the four sections more focussed on the aims of the mission statement. The priority is Effective Ministry in Every Parish (EMEP) and deciding how to use our resources to best effect as well as nurturing each other as disciples.

Churches need to be outward not inward looking and have a vocation for the whole community. Andrew announced two new initiatives particularly targeting schools, Experience Eucharist and Experience Church, which are to be launched in the autumn. Churches need to be Outward looking in service to the community e.g. food banks, Outward looking as disciples – where we live and work. Outward looking in hospitality – growing churches are hospitable when people come – ‘welcome is what happens after the greeting’. Outward looking in mission – finding out what God is doing and joining in.

**Diocesan budget:** This had been covered in Roger’s report and in the **Report from Diocesan Synod** which was circulated.

**Notices:** The Historic Churches Trust sponsored cycle ride will take place again this year and churches were urged to get involved.

At the **next synod meeting** on 17<sup>th</sup> October Alison Perham (wife of the bishop) will speak on helping people at the end of life and members are asked to invite anyone who is involved with this work or who would be interested to attend. The venue is not yet determined.

The meeting concluded with prayer.