

SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2014 at Maisemore Village Hall

Present:

Clergy: Canon R Mitchell, Revds: S Dangerfield, S Mason, S Skepper, K Morgan, S Taylor, D Gill, J Perkin, C Ingram, B Parfitt, J Longuet-Higgins, I Gobey, P Phillips

Lay: Mrs M Barnes, Mrs H Cotton, Mr N Hogg, Mrs F Hall, Mr G Davies, Miss E Castle, Mr R Cook, Miss F Pearce, Ms K Clarke, Mr R Parker, Dr A Nicol, Mrs C May, Mr R Dunnett, Miss M Swinley, Mr N Langstone, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs J Frost, Mr A Hawker-Bond, Mrs M Mitchell, Dr N Garbutt, Mr H James, Mrs E Frampton, Mr C Thomson, Mrs H Witcomb, Mrs R Blandford, Mr C Jakeman, Mrs S Hargreave, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr P Cotton, Mr A Clive, Miss K Creese, Mr S Riddick, Mrs H Murphy, Mrs S Padfield, Mr D Freeman (observing)

Apologies:

Clergy: Revds: J Walden, P Donald, C Sterry, A Lomas, S Hobbs

Lay: Mrs K Carpenter, Mrs R Cottell, Mr R Ashenden, Mr J Walden, Mrs M Richardson, Mr C Hill, Mr Meath-Baker, Mrs R Clowes, Mr M Heylings, Mr D Wright, Ms F Down

Members were offered a glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles before the meeting to celebrate the start of the new triennium.

Opening Prayers: were led by Rev. John Longuet-Higgins

Welcomes: Richard welcomed all members to the new synod especially those who had been newly elected and those representing the retired clergy. He also welcomed the Bishop of Tewkesbury The Rt Revd Martyn Snow. He also pointed members to the leaflet which had been distributed giving more details about belonging to the deanery.

Website: Hugh James reminded members about the deanery website (severnvaldeanery.co.uk) which can be used to publicise parish as well as deanery activities.

Election of Lay Chair: Sue Padfield was re-elected unopposed (P: Janet Frost, S: Mary McGhee). The standing committee was re-elected in its entirety.

Minutes: of the meeting on 25th February were approved (P: Simon Mason, S: Sarah Hargreave)

Matters Arising: Sue reminded the meeting about the proposal to raise £5000 over 2 years for Christian Aid (details were sent out with the agenda) and asked for confirmation that each parish was prepared to do it. This was agreed. Parishes may collect gift aid themselves before sending the total to the treasurer (Mrs Hazel Cotton, Brook Cottage, Church Lane, Badgeworth, Cheltenham, GL51 5UL, 01452 857180) Cheques payable to Severn Vale Deanery).

Richard reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund grant to the cathedral that the Dean had spoken about had been approved which was a great blessing to the Project Pilgrim he'd described at the last meeting of synod.

Journeying Together: Each benefice presented a report on how they are applying the principles of Journeying Together. Each had many encouraging examples ranging from building improvements to working outside the building altogether and from enabling greater and more effective lay ministry to working in schools and in partnership with other denominations. The Deanery funded lay worship leaders course featured several times as a valuable tool.

Bishop Martyn: Spoke of his experiences both before and since joining the diocese and how his childhood in Africa had been very formative. His first impressions of the diocese were of a great diversity of churches and communities but with a sense of vibrancy. He said that the emerging priorities were to bring hope, joy and peace. We need to counter the presentation of the church in decline. Numbers in church on a Sunday may be falling but there is much more happening outside church and on other days. We are focussing on food banks and credit unions as a ministry to the disadvantaged. There is a new emphasis on pioneer ministry for which there is a need to grow resources. It is vital to work with children and get adults, especially parents, to pass on the faith. He stressed the need to review the health and viability of churches to ensure our limited resources could be effectively targeted.

During the question time there was much concern for resourcing rural churches and how to reach whole families especially the men.

Parish Share: Roger Parker gave out details of the current position and noted that only two benefices in the deanery were meeting the cost of their minister and that the diocese could no longer cover the deficiency from reserves which had been exhausted. Benefices had been asked for an additional £925 each to help balance the diocesan budget for 2014 this year but a reduction of stipendiary ministers was now very possible if this wasn't achieved.

Treasurer: Hazel Cotton reported that the balance in the bank was £1157.39. Four churches have not paid the £10 subscription but this may be due to incorrect treasurer details. The Lay Worship Leaders course had been funded by the deanery

Wholeness and Healing: There is to be a healing and wholeness afternoon (1 – 4 pm) at Cirencester Parish Church on Saturday 18th October 2014 at which Bishop Michael will lead a eucharist and Alison Morgan will speak.

Diocesan Synod report: Had been circulated with the agenda

Notices: Richard noted that this was Katy Morgan's (Churchdown and Innsworth) last synod and wished her well in her retirement.

Next Meeting: Thursday 16th October – venue to be decided