

Woodbridge Deanery Synod



Minutes of the meeting of Woodbridge Deanery Synod held on Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 19:30
Butley Village Hall, 45 Mill Lane, Butley, IP12 3PA

36 people attended: Seven Clergy; 25 Lay Representatives and Four visitors.
There were seven apologies.

Revd Giles Tulk, Wilford Benefice Team Rector, led a short Act of Worship to open Synod

Welcome and Introductions

The Ven Annette Cooper, Rural Dean

Ven Annette Cooper welcomed everyone and thanked the helpers from the Orford Cluster who had provided the excellent refreshments.

AC then introduced and welcomed Revd Charles Trefusis, the new Vicar for St John's Woodbridge and St Andrews Bredfield. Congratulations were also offered to Fr Nigel Prior, Rector of St Mary's Woodbridge and Great Bealings, who was celebrating his 40th year of Priesthood. In his absence, Rita agreed to convey our congratulations. AC asked for prayers as the Benefice welcomed a new curate. A warm welcome was also offered to our visitors.

Mary Hare, Lay Chair, Opened the Business meeting

1 **Minutes** of the meeting held on 24th March 2022, having been previously circulated, were accepted and signed.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Deanery Website: *Rita James*

MH invited RJ to give an update on the progress of the Deanery Synod Website. This information was set out in the attached document (ATT1...) in both Word and .pdf format. There was discussion about content, what members would like to see included and any links to other appropriate sites. Ideas and suggestions to Rita at webmaster@stmaryswoodbridge.org. Written documents to be sent as both .doc and .pdf and Posters as .pdf .png or .jpg

3 Financial Update on Parish Share – Mary Hare

In his absence, Clive Willetts, Deanery Organiser had sent a short report, (ATT2...) that MH shared. CW highlighted the fact that some PCCs had paid nothing and asked members to encourage Treasurers to give as much as they could.

4 Deanery Teams - Ven Annette

This year the Bishops' staff had been encouraging Deanery Leadership teams. Archdeacon Jeanette had been working with rural deans and lay chairs and role descriptions had been created.

As there had been some confusion about these, AC suggested the role descriptions could be shared (these would be circulated with the minutes of this meeting). See ATT 3/4/5. The Rev Katrina Dykes had been appointed Assistant Rural Dean of Woodbridge by Bishop Martin. AC welcomed KD to this role.

5 Deanery Gathering – Ven Annette

AC suggested it would be good to have a Gathering and Celebration in addition to formal Synods. A time to come together in friendship and welcome members who joined Synod during Covid. AC asked how people would feel about a gathering in mid-November, possibly 17th November, and take time to reflect on what we have done and what we should do. The consensus was to go for it. AC would send invitations.

ACTION: AC

6 Any Other Business

6.1 Supporting Ukrainian refugees and their hosts: The Deanery Website contained a link to a questionnaire for those interested in being involved in supporting refugees. There were a number of parishes cross the Deanery that were arranging various ways to support refugees. St Mary's and St John's Woodbridge both have a website for support. Many others have links to the Bishops DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal to help children affected by the crisis in Ukraine.

6.2 Deanery Pilgrimage: *Katrina Dykes* KD advised that routes for two walks were available on the Deanery website <https://www.woodbridgedeanery.org/walks>. KD asked which of the two dates people would prefer for the walk, either Saturday 24 September or Saturday 8 October. Feedback to KD please. Leaving Gt Bealings church at 09.30 follow the route through Hasketon, Boulge, Bredfield, Ufford and Eyke – total distance about 8.4miles. Flyers would be on the website in July. Let KD know your availability.

7 Exploring the Fifth Mark of Mission: *Revd Canon Mark Haworth*

7.1 AC introduced Canon Mark and welcomed him to Deanery Synod. MH began by sharing some background information about the fifth mark of mission - *to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth* - and how it works in this Diocese. He referenced COP26 in Glasgow where almost 200 countries committed to take action on climate change. We cannot operate in isolation from others or from creation.

7.2 The Diocesan website at:

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/for-parishes/your-church-and-the-environment/> gives a wealth of information on

- Church Grounds for Wildlife
- Climate Sunday
- Eco Church
- Environmentally Sustainable Church
- Season of Creation
- The Environment and You
- Net Zero Carbon

7.3 Our local churches could care for creation by getting involved with A Rocha UK's Eco Church Scheme. The scheme defines an Eco Church as one which has committed to caring for God's earth by worship and teaching; how we look after buildings and land; connecting with global and community environmental issues and encouraging involvement by all church members and hopefully attracting new likeminded people. MH noted that Eco Church was starting in the Woodbridge Deanery. Six Cathedrals in the east had taken part in a webinar.

7.4 Mary Hare advised that there were 468 parishes in this Diocese. The DEG offered expertise in Church survey; Procurement; Heating advice; Trees and a DEO.

7.5 1st September to 4th October will be Creation Time (formerly Trinity) and a Climate Sunday should be nominated.

7.6 There was a reminder of the Five Marks of Mission:

Tell – Teach – Tend – Transform – Treasure.

7.7 Questions & Comments:

Electric Vehicles: There was uncertainty about being able to find charging points in our very rural area. Plug in Suffolk was a project to simplify the procedure of charging an EV in this area and make Suffolk Zero Emission Vehicle ready, eventually covering almost every possible publicly accessible car park in Suffolk.

Should Electric Vehicles (EV) be encouraged? Materials used to make batteries - Cobalt, nickel and lithium - were all extracted using environmentally damaging methods. There were also socio-economic issues. These needed to be overcome before EVs would be completely environmentally acceptable.

Small Changes we can make: Leave the car behind and walk where possible. Look at where produce and other items come from – buy local if you can.

Churchyard Maintenance: Let it grow! Churches count on nature. Clear paths but leave wildflower areas to bloom and seed. Engage with local Farmers about pesticide use.
Eco Church: Do the Eco Church Survey <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/>
Church Schools: Is there a strategy for upgrading?
Heat Pumps: Should be considered if you are changing your heating. Initially expensive but better for the planet.

KD thanked Canon Mark for sharing the wealth of information and ideas for what we could all do to become more Eco friendly.

AC thanked everyone and wished them a safe journey.
The meeting closed with Prayer at 21:15.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 13 October 2022 - 7.15pm for 7.30pm

With a focus on Training, Ministry and Learning together.

At Hasketon Victory Hall, Tymmes Place, Hasketon, Woodbridge, IP13 6JD