

Woodbridge Deanery Synod



Minutes of the meeting of Woodbridge Deanery Synod held on Thursday 13th October
at 19:30 at The Victory Hall, Tymmes Place, Hasketon, IP13 6JD

2022

21 people attended: 6 Clergy and 15 Lay Representatives.
There were 15 apologies.

Welcome and Introductions

The Ven Annette Cooper, Rural Dean

Ven Annette Cooper welcomed everyone and thanked the helpers from the Carlford Benefice who had prepared the hall and served refreshments.

AC then introduced and welcomed Revd Gail Minter, the new Curate in the Carlford Benefice and Revd Capt. Simon Cake CA, Team Vicar in the Wilford Benefice. AC was pleased that the Deanery now had a full complement of stipendiary clergy.

A warm welcome was also offered to the guest speaker Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands and leader of Vocations Roadshow.

Revd Gail led the opening prayers beginning with Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 12:1-8.

Business meeting

1. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 23rd June 2022, having been previously circulated, were accepted and signed.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 **Deanery Pilgrimage:** *Katrina Dykes*

KD was pleased to report that this had taken place on a lovely autumnal day, beginning in Gt Bealings church with Fr. Nigel and proceeding at a leisurely pace through Hasketon, Boulge, lunching in Bredfield, then Ufford and Eyke – 10 to 12 pilgrims had taken part. It was much appreciated and there was agreement that it should happen again, and different routes explored. KD thanked Tony Allwood for providing the route details.

2.2 **Deanery Gathering:** *Ven Annette*

AC felt this would be a time of celebration and enjoyment: to look at where we are and where we want to be; what we have achieved reviewing our plans – We have much to celebrate, new clergy, Prayer and Pilgrimage; Environmental issues. Was this something members would like to do? There was a positive show of hands and it was agreed that 17th November would be a good time. Further information would follow. An invitation with reply slip noting dietary requirements to be circulated **ACTION: AC/LJC**

2.3 **Retirements:** *Ven Annette*

AC advised that she would be retiring from her role as Rural Dean at the end of November 2022. She felt that this was the right time to make the change, prior to Archdeacon Jeanette's retirement who had said she was also retiring in April 2023.

3 **Financial Update on Parish Share:** *Clive Willetts*

Clive Willetts, Deanery Organiser, said that as of 30th September 75% of the Deanery Share had been paid. He asked that treasurers in parishes that hadn't made any payment yet be encouraged to do so. The Deanery was on course to reach 83% by the end of October 2022.

4 **Reports**

4.1 **General Synod – Tony Allwood**

4.1.1 General Synod met in July at York. A copy of the very good report had been previously circulated and is attached. TA advised that a Routemap to reach net zero carbon emissions across the whole Church by 2030 had been debated. This would be a challenge.

4.1.2 It was also announced that our Diocese would be undertaking a trial of heated cushions. These could run on rechargeable batteries or mains electricity. The single chair size units consisted of seat and back cushions, were economical to run and, as they were designed to warm the individual, reduced costs by not heating the whole building. Rosie kindly agreed to try it out and declared it comfortable and very warm. Interested churches should contact Tony Allwood

(tony_allwood@btopenworld.com) to get more information and book a date for a trial run. The purchase price was £180 per unit and they should last a long time. The National Church Building Council would like feedback. TA was thanked for the report and information.

4.2 **Diocesan Synod – Mary Hare**

4.2.1 MH advised that this meeting had been conducted via Zoom on 1 October 2022 and had included discussions, presentations, break outs and voting. Bishop Martin's address included reference to the cost-of-living crisis and how the church could respond, was available to watch on the Diocesan website. The link is provided in the attached Report.

4.2.2 **Church Buildings** AD David introduced the item. The Diocese have been trying to think of new ways to use church buildings and to start a national conversation about their future use. They are committed to keeping churches open.

4.2.3 **Living in Love and Faith (LLF)** Bishop Martin advised that following on from the last Synod a group had been set up to see how the Diocese might respond in line with the national process.

4.2.4 **Learning & Development Hub** A new website would be launched early next year to be called "Insight" that would make available courses and other resources for everyone.

4.2.5 **Budget Approval** The 2023 budget was approved after some debate. The Parish Share request was £7.35m and taking into account assumed expenditure there would be a deficit of just under £700k

5 **Cost of Living initiatives**

5.1 Clergy would be receiving resources and links. A working party had been set up for support and a lot of work was going on.

The Business meeting closed at 8.05pm

Vocations Roadshow - Revd Stuart Batten, Diocesan Director of Ordinands

Revd Stuart apologized that due to unforeseen circumstances his colleague was unable to attend.

He shared a little of his background and how he was drawn to supporting and encouraging people who were looking for ways to use their skills to serve God and their communities. He distributed some informative reading: 'Explore your Ministry' and 'Nine Days of Prayer for Vocations' together with a course booklet for Basics – a Living Faith in Suffolk course for people who might be considering any kind of ministry.

The PowerPoint presentation that Revd Stuart talked us through is attached.

Revd Stuart had a genuine sincerity and dedication to his ministry and mission and was warmly thanked by Mary Hare for sharing it with Synod.

Synod closed with the Grace.

Dates of Deanery Synod meetings 2023

Thursday 2nd February

Thursday 15th June

Thursday 19th October