

Woodbridge Deanery Synod



Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 24th March 2022 at 7.30pm at St John's Church, Woodbridge.

The Synod was attended by 22 Representatives, 15 Visitors and there were 8 Apologies. The Rural Dean, Ven Annette Cooper, thanked our hosts at St John's for their hospitality.

The Synod opened with prayers led by Revd Katrina Dykes.

Presentation

Matt Levett (Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Officer) was introduced. Unfortunately, due to Covid, Hilary Wadsworth-Sewell (Diocesan Children and families Officer) was unable to be present.

Matt gave an alternative view to ways of evangelising the generation of young people between the ages of 11 and 20.

How to develop this, his message was stark, no WiFi, no young people because they were totally engaged with mobile phones. He advised setting up free, open access, WiFi in churches and using it. The provision of free WiFi in churches generated widespread interest and Revd Giles Tulk stated that Orford Church was providing this for young people coming home from school and it was being used.

The problems of small villages recruiting volunteers to move young people on from Messy Church was discussed and Matt stated that for some people, children and adults, Messy Church is their church and they don't move on.

Don't be paralysed by fear. Start somewhere. Most initiatives take place outside of church. Have a clean bright warm place where people feel welcome, for example, a pop-up café open over half term

Contribute in other ways. Contact Gemma Taylor at the Diocesan Board of Education about becoming a School Governor. You are needed.

Use the Diocesan Resources for young children. The Padlet sessions available on the Diocesan Website were commended.

Two training courses were recommended

Youth Work Essentials – a 10 week course

Connect – a course for working with Children.

The Chair thanked Matt for his presentation and sent get well wishes to Hilary.

Following this presentation, the visitors left and the business meeting began.

Business Meeting. Rural Dean in the Chair.

Revd Brian Jolley was welcomed as an SSM curate working in the Wilford Benefice.

In the absence of Linda Cooper, the secretary, Mary Hare, Lay Chair took the minutes.

1. The minutes of the last Synod meeting were accepted.

2. Matters arising.

2.1. The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee had met to decide on the programme, the Rural Dean having analysed the priorities from the Deanery Workshop which were Children and Young People's work, Environmental issues, Prayer and Vocation.

2.2. The first was the Children and Young People's presentation. The second will be the 23rd June Synod in Butley village hall with a presentation by Revd Mark Haworth, Diocesan Environmental Advisor. Rita James was proposed to be the Deanery Environment Champion and all members present voted in favour of this. Planning of small pilgrimage walks between churches in the Deanery to allow people to meet in prayer would be starting. Vocations both Lay and Ordained would be the topic for the for the autumn meeting. With the Diocesan Vocations Roadshow present.

2.3. Rita James had been working to create a Deanery Website. A suitable domain had been found at the cost of £93.60 a year. This would be at WoodbridgeDeanery.org. Deanery and Parish event, minutes of Deanery meetings and other notices and news would be uploaded. Details of different parishes could be made available. This was warmly welcomed and the first-year fee would be sponsored. However, it was agreed that a small contribution from each parish would ultimately be very acceptable. A unanimous vote for the initiative was obtained.

3. General Synod Report. Tony Allwood's report had been sent by email. He emphasised the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules, GS2245, (paper attached) with the emphasis on the environment. Parishes wishing to replace like-for-like gas and oil central heating would now find it more difficult to do so. The Church is committed to net zero by 2030.

There will be another annual Thy Kingdom Come prayer focus in May. A Book Pack would be available consisting of a Children's Book, A Novena, A Prayer Calendar and a Reflection on 1 Peter by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This is available for the cost of postage. An order of 50 packs will cost £5 and 100 for £7.50p from Church House Publishing.

4. Living in Love and Faith. The Diocesan Synod report provided by Penny Bird describes the discussion at the Synod. Mary Hare then spoke. In that discussion there had been many concerns expressed about the course itself described by some as 'biased' and 'clunky' and very few had completed the course. Mary had been able to read to the Synod the letter from Woodbridge Deanery Synod with their reservations and concerns. From the floor many agreed. After the coffee break Bishop Martin spoke saying as a result of our letter and the other comments the Senior Staff had met together and decided to devise a Diocesan Course which would be better balanced and easy to run face-to-face in small groups. This was strongly welcomed.

Although 30th April is the deadline on the C of E website for those who have completed the course to fill in their views, in actual fact it is made quite clear also that there is a link for others to click on and express their views by personal statement and this is not subject to the 30th April Deadline. Sharon Potter had assured the Diocesan Synod members that their views would still be reviewed if submitted through that link after 30th April.

5. Finance.

Clive Willetts, Deanery Organiser, congratulated the parishes for their efforts in 2021 whereby we were just short of 100% parish share for which a big 'Thank You'. There is a 1.1% increase in share for 2022.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal for the DEC (via Vision Aid) appeal for funds to assist those fleeing war in Ukraine had reached £29,000 and was increasing. Bishop Martin has expressed grateful thanks to all.

6. Diary Dates.

6.1. Archdeacon's Visitation for churchwardens, Tuesday 14th June, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge.

6.2. Licensing of Revd Charles Trefusis as Vicar of St John's Woodbridge. 20th June.

6.3. Confirmation, 9th October, Melton and Ufford Benefice. Please contact the Rector, Revd Paul Hambling.

6.4. Deanery Synod next meeting 23rd June, at Butley Village Hall.

Closing prayers by The Revd Paul Hambling.

Thanks were offered to all who had made the meeting possible.