

Woodbridge Deanery Synod

<https://www.woodbridgedeanery.org/>

Minutes of the meeting of Woodbridge Deanery Synod held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st July 2025 at St Felix Rendlesham.

19 people attended: 4 Clergy, 14 Lay Representatives 1 visitor. There were 13 apologies.

1. Rev Mandy Reynolds, Rural Dean welcomed everyone and introduced Karen Galloway Diocesan Safeguarding Office and Alison Baalham Safeguarding Administrator.
2. Rev Mandy led the opening prayers.
3. Promoting a Safer Church – (A copy of the presentation is attached with the minutes.) Karen Galloway began by detailing the members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and introduced Alison Baalham the Safeguarding Administrator. Karen outlined the imperative of ensuring all members of the church community are safe and highlighted that an independent Safeguarding group INEQE had now been commissioned by the Church of England to conduct audits to ensure that Dioceses and Cathedrals create environments where all feel safe, valued and respected. Karen encouraged all parishes to take part in the survey based on the 5 National Safeguarding Standards by accessing:
[Church of England – St Edmundsbury & Ipswich - Ineqe Safeguarding Group](#)

Alison Baalham detailed resources available to Parish Safeguarding Officers to assist them in meeting national mandatory safeguarding requirements - parish dashboards and parish hubs (via an App), face to face and online training, posters, risk assessments, lone working policy and other community support networks. Karen finished by detailing the process for contacting the Safeguarding team and how out of hours support would operate. Questions were then taken from the floor. Rev Mandy thanked Karen and Alison for an informative and thought provoking presentation and indicated that a pack of information was available to take away.

4. Apologies for absence – the attendance book was circulated.
5. Minutes of the meeting on 26th February were agreed and signed – there were no matters arising.
6. Deanery Synod report – (A copy of the report is attached with the minutes) Mary Hare reported clergy wellbeing was a concern due to increasing financial hardship due to pension changes and the lack of affordable retirement housing. In addition the late payment of Parish Share has resulted in borrowing needed to pay Stipends thereby increasing costs and leading to increases in Parish Share. Mary indicated that 18 parishes needed to submit their financial return for 2024. It was pointed out that some parishes were still awaiting clarification on their Parish Share contributions and some APCMs had only concluded at the end of May. Rev Mandy agreed to follow up.
7. Standing Committee – it was agreed a meeting would be needed by the end of August to agree Deanery Synod dates for 2026
8. Parish News –
 - Rev Mandy indicated she would be installed on 4th September 2025 and will be moving to Orford, In addition it was confirmed that Gregory Gooch was ordained on 28 July and would be working full time in the Benefice from September 1st.
 - Rev Charles Trefusis (St John's Woodbridge) said two curates were ordained as Deacons in recent days and that the new electric heating was being installed in Bredfield Church.
 - Audrey Rutherford (All Saints Sudbourne) reported that fundraising for new under pew heating was underway utilising the match funding Give to Go Green initiative run by the Diocese – the target was £40K
 - Rev Mark Cresswell (Carlford Benefice) gave details of their attendance at the LYCIG (Leading Your Church into Growth) conference and the initiatives and enthusiasm generated leading to route maps for

- Rev Kathy Wilson (The Place by the Water) said two grants had been received securing the future of retreats and wellbeing, Building work was underway to improve access.

9. Election for casual vacancy on Diocesan Synod – Jane Webster was proposed for election by Mary Hare and seconded by John Pitchford. Rev Mandy Reynolds acted as returning officer. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

10. AOB – None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 16th OCTOBER 2025 – ST JOHN'S WOODBRIDGE – Speaker TBC