



Woodbridge Deanery Synod

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



Minutes of the meeting of Woodbridge Deanery Synod held at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th June 2023 at Clopton Village Hall, Manor Road, Clopton, Woodbridge, IP13 6QN

24 people attended: four Clergy, 16 Lay Representatives and four visitors.
There were eight apologies.

Revd Giles, Rural Dean, welcomed everyone and thanked Revd Katrina and her team for providing refreshments. Revd Giles also explained that due to the APCM deadline being extended by a month, this was the final meeting of the current triennial. The first meeting of the new triennial would be the October meeting.

GT went on to say that Synod was not just a business meeting. There was a lot going on in the Deanery and this was the chance to share experiences and learn from each other, an opportunity rather than a burden. It was intended to stick to a timed Agenda.

Revd Katrina was invited to lead the opening prayers.

Business meeting

Mary Hare

1 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2023 having been previously circulated, were accepted and signed.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters raised.

3 Financial Update

Clive Willetts

CW advised that as at 31st May 2023, the proportion of Deanery share paid was on track at 42%. There were no questions.

4 Discussion Groups

GT outlined the three topics for discussion and introduced the group leaders who each gave a brief outline of their topic:

- Setting up a 'Friends of' group – two different approaches
- *Libby Archer and Audrey Rutherford*

LA said the group came together in 2019/20 with both church and non-churchgoing members and in 2021 was formally constituted as a Charity to uphold and maintain the church and its facilities. They had regular discussions with the PCC.

AR outlined a less formal approach to pastoral care for everyone in the Sudbourne area. This was an email based group offering support and circulating information.

- A Rocha Eco Church awards – *Ben Wale*

BW introduced himself as a member of the Lightwave team looking for ways to connect with families. Partnerships with groups including Caring for God's Acre and Living Churchyard Project were helping to bring people together and to set up groups as well as engaging young people through contact with schools. Doing something small to be part of something big – Giving back to God.

- *Childrens/Toddler groups – Revd Katrina Dykes and Revd Gail Minter*

KD said this was a small group, formed in 2021, to offer support to families with young children who were not used to socialising, having been born just before or during CoVid lockdown. It served the 9 parishes in the Carlford Benefice and not many families were churchgoers. Sessions take place in the afternoon once a week in Grundisburgh Village Hall. There was no charge, but voluntary donations would be accepted towards refreshments. GM was keen to point out that the group focused as much on the mothers/carers as on the children and was grateful to a band of mature volunteers who loved to take care of babies, allowing mothers the opportunity to relax and chat. Toys were kept simple and suitable for any child. The group was well supported by the villages

5 Breakout groups

Reps were invited to join whichever group they were most interested in for discussion and questions. GT thanked everyone for participating and group leaders for sharing their experiences.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 Tony Allwood advised that Diocesan Synod was taking place on Saturday 24th June and Environmental issues would be discussed. Anyone could attend.

6.2 Jackie Maslin would be grateful if volunteers would provide a savory or sweet dish for the refreshments at the Archdeacon's Visitation to take place in St Bartholomew's church, Orford on Tuesday 27th June.

7 The meeting closed with prayers at 8.35pm.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 19th October 2023 at St John's church, St John's Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1HS