

## Woodbridge Deanery Synod

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

Minutes of the meeting of Woodbridge Deanery Synod held at 7.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at St Felix Rendlesham.

28 people attended: 8 Clergy, 20 Lay Representatives. There were 9 apologies.

1. Mary Hare Lay Chair welcomed everyone and thanked St Felix for providing refreshments.
2. Rev Mandy Reynolds led the opening prayers.
3. The attendance book was circulated
4. Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) – Mary Hare introduced Revd Katie de Bourcier the Diocesan and Mission Enabler who gave a presentation on the support available to Parishes, Benefices and Congregations to develop and grow. Katie highlighted common factors in growing churches and reported on the last LYCiG conference in July which attracted 93 delegates. The 2025 conference would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025 in Debenham, Revd Paul Hambling and John Pitchford from Melton (who attended this year's conference) confirmed the positive outcomes from the conference, emphasising the importance of strengthening relationships and recommended the paperback *How Village Churches Thrive* (Church House Publishing (10 Jun. 2022) ISBN-10:1781402191)  
[Hugh Dennis introduces "How village churches thrive" \(youtube.com\)](#)
5. Minutes of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – These were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.
6. Standing Committee. Update – Mary Hare stated the current membership comprises, The Rural Dean, (vacant), Lay Chair, Secretary, Clive Willetts (Deanery Organiser) and Rita James (Ecology and Webmaster) and two additional clergy elected by the chapter. Revd Paul Hambling confirmed he was one of the current clergy. Revd Charles Trefusis indicated his willingness to be nominated. The clergy chapter to make this decision and the Standing Committee will meet in late November or early December to consider topics for 2025.
7. Financial Update – Clive Willetts reported that of the £539K parish share, £345K had been received equating to 64% which fell short of the hoped 75% normally expected by October. Clive asked that parishes try to accelerate their payments to meet their targets. The Parish Share figures for 2025 were expected to be released by 19<sup>th</sup> October.
8. Diocesan Synod Elections – Mary Hare said papers but no agenda had been received for the first Diocesan Synod meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October in Ipswich. Initially the House of Clergy and the House of Laity will meet separately to elect their new House Chairs. Tony Allwood stated that he would not be standing for re-election. The Synod expressed thanks for his hard work in this role. He remains on General and Diocesan Synod. Our Deanery will be well represented at Diocesan Synod in both Houses in the next triennium.
9. Wilford Benefice Vacancy – Revd Mandy Reynolds reported that the parish Profiles were now completed. A Section 12 meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> October and the advert will appear by early November with interviews in January and an appointment by Easter. Adverts will be repeated if necessary. Treasurers can expect to be invoiced in due course.
10. Resolution submitted by Burgh PCC – Slavery & the Church Commissioners – It was unclear whether this will appear on the Diocesan Synod Agenda as it has yet to be received.
- 11 Parish News - None.
- 12 Future Deanery Synod 2024 dates – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Melton Parish Hall  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025

13. AOB –

- Revd Martin Roberts stated there would be a Through Faith Mission in Woodbridge in September 25
- Tony Allwood referenced the circulated Report on the General Synod meeting July 2024 for St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Diocese which recognised the work of Bishop Martin. Tony highlighted the efforts of Sally Gaze and others which challenged proposals that PCCs should be automatically required to recompense any victims of historic abuse where that occurred on Church premises no matter how long ago. This has now been changed from a requirement for PCCs, to a request on PCCs.
- Revd Charles Trefusis mentioned the Accessibility Training available on the 20<sup>th</sup> October at St John's Woodbridge – 2 -5pm.

14. Revd Mandy Reynolds closed the meeting with a prayer 9.10pm