



Woodbridge Deanery Synod

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

Minutes of the meeting of Woodbridge Deanery Synod held at 7.30pm on Thursday 19th October 2023 at St John's, Woodbridge IP12 1HS

36 people attended: four Clergy, 28 Lay Representatives and four visitors.
There were four apologies.

1. Rev Giles Tulk, Rural Dean, welcomed everyone and thanked St John's for providing such excellent refreshments. GT also welcomed Julie Podd, Parish Resources Manager and Emma Denton, Parish Giving Advisor to the meeting.

2. Rev Charles Trefusis led the opening prayers.

3. Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), Digital Giving, Grants, Funding and Legacy Giving.

Julie Podd gave a presentation on her experiences in launching successful PGSs and referenced findings from the Anglican Giving Survey which highlighted opportunities for future revenue generation from regular and one-off charitable donations. Julie highlighted how Parishes can set up and operate schemes and showed how digital technologies including QR codes and contactless giving can provide channels for donations in churches, at special events or online.

Emma Denton explained how Parishes can access a Church Grant database using a login code to identify potential sources of grants and funding for church based projects and indicated she would be happy to assist Parishes produce a grant strategy. Emma described the opportunities for Legacy Giving - many people were unaware that churches are registered charities which may provide possible tax advantages when writing Wills. Emma concluded by suggesting communication is the key to success - starting the conversation with parishioners and highlighting and celebrating projects made possible through legacies and other funding.

Julie mentioned current PCC workshops are planned via Zoom on the 8th November with topics on grants & funding, gifts in wills and digital giving and can be booked via the Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/diocese-of-st-edmundsbury-and-ipswich-11874263047>

4. Breakout Session - Julie and Emma demonstrated some of the technology in a breakout session - more details are available online below:

[Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich | Church Grants Home - Parish Giving Scheme](#)

A copy of their presentation is attached with these minutes. GT thanked Julie and Emma for an informative and thought provoking session.

Business meeting

5. Election of Co Chair - Mary Hare was elected unanimously. GT thanked Mary for agreeing to continue in the role.

6. Apologies - received from Audrey Rutherford, Revd Simon Cake, Karin Upson, Revd Katrina Dykes

7. Minutes - Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2023 having been previously circulated, were accepted and signed.

8. Matters Arising - There were no matters raised.

9. Financial Update - *Clive Willetts*

CW advised that the current Deanery Share was set at £535K and currently £351K had been received (66%) but suggested this should nearer 75% and encouraged PCCs to try and achieve 80% by their next meetings. There were no questions.

10. Update on key issues – *Mary Hare*

- a) Diocese Synod - MH reported that sickness had affected the delivery of the annual report of the DAC and Safeguarding Officer. The Church of England Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing was being addressed to congregations.
- b) Deanery Synod - none

11. Deanery Role to fill:

- a) Deanery Secretary - The meeting agreed to appoint Mike Morris as Deanery Secretary. GT expressed thanks on behalf of all those present
- b) Deanery Deputy Lay Co-Chair - MH outlined the role, including meeting schedules and responsibilities and suggested it would be appropriate for anyone with an interest in Church governance and invited applications (a summary of the job description will be available).
- c) Standing Committee - MH indicated that this role would align national and local initiatives and feed into the agenda of the Deanery Synod meeting. It was suggested it should comprise 2 clergy (to be rotated) and 2 lay members one of which should be Treasurer and invited applications. CT (St John's) advocated the 2 clergy members should be elected for a fixed period. GT advised this could be decided by the clergy.

12. Future Deanery Synod 2024 Dates: - Thu 8th Feb - Melton (TBC)
Thu 6th June
Thu 10th October

13. AOB - GT had received details of a meeting organised by Archdeacon Rich to discuss the Woodbridge Deanery Share for 2024. All incumbents and Treasurers are asked to attend St Andrews Melton Church Hall 7th November at 7.30pm

Rev Paul Hambling informed the meeting of the sad passing of Beryl Lucas and wished to record thanks for her work over the years for the Parish, Deanery and Benefice.

GT thanked Linda Cooper for her work as Deanery Secretary over many years and suggested sending a gift in recognition - the meeting agreed

GT urged people to take up Julie & Emma's offer of help to our parishes in respect of financial giving and grants, and thanked everyone for attending in the bad weather.

14 Closing Prayer - Rev Charles Trefusis

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm