**Minutes of Bishop's Waltham Deanery Synod**

**Tuesday 28th January held at All Saints Church, Botley**

Area Dean - Revd Canon David Isaac Lay Chair - Norman Chapman

**Purpose:** To discover what God is calling us to do to be more effective

in Mission across the Bishops Waltham Deanery

**Present** were 20 Lay members and 6 Clergy

The Area Dean first welcomed Revd Richard Wharton (in his absence) to the Deanery. He is assisting Revd. Gregg Mensingh at Botley, Curdridge and Durley. He also welcomed Revd. Clare Towns who is now staying on at St Barnabas, Swanmore. Having thanked Revd Gregg Mensingh and his team for their welcome and refeshments, he welcomed all and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Synod was informed that it had been decided to postpone the discussion on Ghana to the next meeting and to make it the sole item on that agenda.

The Area Dean welcomed Bethan Fogell, Diocesan Children and Youth Work Advisor, who gave a presentation on her work in the Deanery. The vision is that every church in the diocese prioritises children and young people through evangelism and discipleship. We want and need to grow young leaders of the future through equipping, encouraging and supporting them. Initially all churches are being asked to complete a Youth and Children’s Mission & Ministry (YCMM) survey (these have already been sent to all parishes) and to appoint a YCMM Champion. Bethan ended by encouraging churches to contact her for support and guidance, either by email: bethan.fogell@portsmouth.anglican.org or by phone: 023 92 899652.

The Area Dean thanked Bethan for coming and sharing her enthusiasm.

**Apologies** were received from 7 lay members – Ann Bazalgette (Hambledon), Marilyn Gamblin (Bishops Waltham), David Hughes (Soberton), Adrian Jordan (Diocesan Synod), John Gwynn (Diocesan Property Cttee Chair), Heather Parry (Exton), Jane Pepys (Exton) and 2 clergy – Revd Simon Brocklehurst and Revd James Hunt,

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th November (2019) having been previously circulated were agreed and signed
2. Matters arising: none identified.

Item 6(7) of the Agenda – **Hackney** – was discussed at this point. The Revd Norman Chatfield summarised the purpose of the Link with Hackney (Prayer, Worship, Friendship, and experiencing life and work in parishes with very different contexts. Norman also emphasised that any decision regarding the Hackney Link needs to be discussed with our partners. He will be visiting Hackney in February and will be able to report back to the next Synod regarding the views of our partners in Hackney. A briefing paper relating to the presentation and subsequent discussion has already been circulated.

1. **Mission and Pastoral**
	1. The formal consultation on the Boundary Changes, affecting Wickham and Shedfield, is now underway.
	2. Discussions held recently in response to the then pending vacancy at Swanmore will now focus on long-term planning for the deployment of resource in the deanery.
2. **Standing Committee Minutes**
	1. Diocesan Lay Conference: the Bishop recently attended a meeting of deanery lay chairs to discuss plans for the conference. Norman Chapman reported that it still has to be decided how the 100 places will be allocated, but the emphasis is on church members attending, not churchwardens, treasurers etc. He undertook to send synod members a note requesting information about current parish initiatives, in preparation for the conference. There is still some confusion about the purpose of the Conference and the resources required for it to take place.
	2. Deanery Synod Elections: the briefing note already circulated will hopefully stimulate people to seek election to the new deanery synod.
	3. Deanery Services: 21st May 2020 Ascension Day eucharist at St Barnabas, Swanmore

29th Nov 2020 Advent Carol Service at All Saints, Botley (tbc)

* 1. Administrative Support: the current Deanery Administrator is moving away from the immediate area and so is stepping down on January 31st. The Area Dean and Lay Chair will develop a new job description before advertising.
	2. Diocesan Synod: there are 3 clergy vacancies.
1. **Finance**: members were encouraged to send comments, if desired, on the unaudited Financial Statement to the Treasurer.

It was noted that Shedfield has paid the 2018/19 Hackney contribution.

Parishes were congratulated on achieving 100% payment of parish share in 2019.

**Other Items**

* 1. Shedfield Lent Lectures – these will again be held at The Study Centre, St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield. The last lecture is on the Monday of Holy Week and will be followed by Compline. The lectures are open to all church members in the Deanery. There is no need to book, but any queries should be sent to the Shedfield Church office (admin@stjohnthebaptistshedfield.org.uk; tel: 01329 832162).
	2. An ancient Pilgrim route from Southampton to Canterbury has recently been discovered. There are plans to relaunch it in 2020 with Wickham being a staging post. They will possibly be able to offer overnight accommodation in the Church Hall.

A walk will take place on 21st March 2020 from Wickham to Portsmouth Cathedral, with shorter routes available. Walkers will have to arrange transport to and from the start / finish points. The plan is to arrive at Portsmouth Cathedral in time for Evensong. Revd Tony Forrest and Revd Ruth Shipley are part of the organising team.

Corhampton 2000 and Wickham 900 are both being celebrated this year with various events. Please see the relevant websites for more information.

* 1. The next Deanery Synod meeting is on March 17th, the Feast of St Patrick. As this will be the last meeting of the current synod the meeting with begin with a eucharist, followed by refreshments. The main agenda item will be consideration of the deanery partnership link with Ghana.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm with a prayer led by Revd Gregg Mensingh.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 17th March** (venue to be notified)