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

**30th September 2020 held via Zoom**

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

**Present** were 12 Lay members and 10 Clergy

Norman Chapman welcomed those attending and outlined the procedures for the smooth operation of meetings held on Zoom. The Area Dean thanked all those who are ensuring that the necessary measures are being taken to enable churches to be open for worship. It is likely that synod meetings will continue to be held via Zoom for some time to come.

**Apologies** were received from Sabrina Gwynn, Rachel Houlberg, Anthony Savage, Paul Emmerson and the Revd Keith Wickert

1. The **Minutes** of the Meeting held on 28th January 2020, having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed
2. Matters **arising:**

Diocesan Lay Conference: deferred from its planned date this year and will be re-scheduled for 2022.

Deanery administrative support: no further action has been taken to appoint a deanery administrative assistant. Further consideration will be given to this at a future date when deanery programme events are again feasible.

1. **Review of Triennium 2017 - 20**

The summary report of synod activity for the past three years was presented and discussed.

It was agreed to schedule, when possible, a meeting of those involved in the ‘Leading your church into Growth’ programme, to review progress and learnings.

Thanks were offered to all those who have served as deanery officers during this triennium.

1. **Formation of new Deanery Synod – 30th November 2020**

Annual Parochial Church Meetings, deferred from April, will be completed by October 31st. Newly elected representatives to the deanery synod will meet for the first time on November 30th, 2020, at 1900. The agenda will include the election of officers , as below:

Lay Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Standing Committee.

The request for nominations for these posts will be circulated in early November.

1. **Finance**:

The report prepared by Paul Emmerson, Finance Chair, was presented, highlighting the current scale of payment of Parish Share and noting the difficulty which will be faced by some parishes in meeting their target.

The Treasurer’s report on current funds was received. A decision as to whether to raise further contributions in 2021 in support of the Hackney Link is deferred pending further discussion.

1. **Diocesan Strategic Development**

The diocese’s capacity to sustain the current level of expenditure on ministry support has been significantly reduced as a result of the pandemic. Consultation meetings were held, on-line in September, in each archdeaconry, to outline the current scenario and to indicate the general direction of future response. A pattern of discussions will be initiated by the Bishop’s Council to consult widely as to effective, creative and sustainable ways of restructuring the use of resources for ministry.

In discussion the following issues were raised:

* important that we engage with this process at the earliest stage
* build on the initial questions identified by the deanery M&PC Committee
* need some clear starting points in terms of direction of travel and key issues
* balance the need for local focal points with wider structure for cohesive planning
* use the Marks of Mission as key drivers in shaping future provision.

Synod members were encouraged to suggest answers (however tentative) to the questions noted in the report from the Mission and Pastoral Committee (17th August) and to send those in for holding together and future discussion. (to be send to bwdeanery@gmail.com

1. **Outside Links**

**Wiawso Diocese**

The deanery’s emergency response (agreed by email) to allocate £1000 to meet needs arising from the pandemic in our partner diocese in Ghana had been much appreciated. Fr Dickson Denteh, now newly appointed archdeacon of Awaso, was able to distribute the funds to neighbouring parishes.

It was agreed to supply Fr Denteh with funds (£500 - £600) for the purchase of a laptop to support him in his new role as archdeacon.

**Hackney Deanery**

Canon Norman Chatfield presented a suggested schedule for the distribution of accumulated funds for support of projects in Hackney Deanery, totalling £3500.

The Revd Ruth Howlett-Shipley ended the meeting with prayers.

**Next Meeting: 30th November 2020**

**1900 – 2100**

**via Zoom**