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

**30th November 2020 held via Zoom**

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

**Meeting of the House of Laity**

The synod was preceded by a meeting of the House of Laity, presided over by Adrian Jordan, for the election of the Chair of the House. Norman Chapman (Diocesan Synod member), proposed by Jane Salmon, was nominated and unanimously agreed.

The House of Clergy then joined the meeting.

**Present** were 19 Lay members and 8 Clergy.

The Area Dean welcomed to the first meeting of the new triennium new members and also those who had previously served on the synod.

**Apologies** were received from Paul Emmerson.

The Area Dean shared on screen the core purposes of deanery synods, before offering reflections about the direction of the Church’s work being essentially outward and the synod’s role in promoting mission.

1**. Appointment of Officers**

**Lay Chair** – Adrian Jordan informed the synod that Norman Chapman had been selected as Chair of the House of Laity.

The Area Dean welcomed Norman to his continuing role as Lay Chair and invited him to chair the following agenda items.

**Standing Committee**

Amanda Wollam (Bishops Waltham) and the Revd James Hunt (Bishops Waltham) were proposed as members of the Standing Committee and were elected. Ex-officio members of the committee are: the area dean, lay chair, finance treasurer and secretary. Two further members are desired and the committee will hope to appoint them at its first meeting.

**Chair of the Finance Committee**

Paul Emmerson (Bishops Waltham) was proposed and the synod was pleased to appoint him.

**Finance Committee**

No nominations were received. The Standing Committee will hope to appoint members.

**Deanery Treasurer**

Rob Scott (Soberton) was proposed and the synod was pleased to appoint.

**Synod Secretary**

No nominations were received.

1. The **Minutes** of the Meeting held on 30th September 2020, having been previously circulated, were agreed.
2. **Items arising:** 
   * 1. Hackney Deanery Link. The Area Dean reported that conversations with colleagues in the Hackney deanery are continuing, with a view to an event in the summer of 2021 or 2022 as a celebratory occasion of bringing the link to a close.
     2. Wiawso Diocese. Financial support has been provided this year to our partner diocese in Ghana during the pandemic. Synod will discuss later in 2021 the deanery’s future relationship with Waiwso.
3. **Diocesan Synod Report**

Adrian Jordan reported on recent items featuring on the diocesan synod agenda, including the production of a revised risk register for diocesan activity and the new governance handbook, including revised role descriptions for area deans and lay chairs. The parish share apportionment for 2021 has now been sent to parishes. Diocesan income has been badly impacted by the pandemic with significant shortfalls predicted, for current and future years. Budgets have been adjusted as far as possible in the short term and significant longer-term restructuring has begun, assisted by consultancy support from central church staff. The timeframe for change will produce some quick wins , but some initiatives will take several years to implement The 2021 budget has now been prepared and budgeting is still having to be done on an annual basis.

The Area Dean thanked Adrian and his diocesan synod colleagues for their robust representation of the deanery at diocesan synod.

1. **Diocesan Synod Elections 2021.**

The Lay Chair informed synod that elections of deanery representatives to the diocesan synod will be held in 2021. Seats allocated to Bishops Waltham Deanery are: House Laity 7; House of Clergy 5. More details will follow of the process and timetable for the election.

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**Commissioning of Sub-warden of Readers**

The Archdeacon of the Meon and Janet Clarke, Deanery Sub-warden of Readers, joined the meeting. The Lay Chair congratulated Archdeacon Gavin on his recently announced appointment as Bishop of Dorchester and assured him of the deanery’s prayers and best wishes, as well as its regrets as losing him to Oxford Diocese.

The Archdeacon then commissioned Janet in her new role and the synod welcomed her, with assurance of support and prayer. (Janet will be joined in her work by Jill Phipps, as assistant sub-warden).

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. Similarly, no request will be made at this time for further funds to support Wiawso Diocese, pending future discussion by the synod.

1. **Diocesan Strategic Development**

The Bishop’s Council has initiated a process of consultation around the diocese to help form a long-term-programme of restructuring to enhance mission and ministry. Parishes in the deanery have already begun to engage with the issues involved, have appointed members to serve on the deanery Mission & Pastoral Committee (M&PC) and prepared initial responses for consideration by that group. During December and January the M&PC will meet on a number of occasions to prepare its report for the deanery synod on January 21st. The deanery’s proposals will subsequently be presented to the Diocesan Strategic Development group at the beginning of February.

1. **Looking Ahead**

In order to orientate synod members towards the issues needing to be considered by the M&PC, the Area Dean described the framework which the diocesan strategic team is encouraging deaneries to use in shaping their responses, after which the synod divided into small groups for discussion.

The meeting closed with prayer

**Next Meeting: 21st January 2021**

**1900 – 2100**

**via Zoom**