

**Bishop's Waltham Deanery Synod**  
**Minutes of meeting**  
**13<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**Sts Peter and Paul. Hambledon**

Area Dean - Revd Canon David Isaac

Lay Chair – Paul Quinn

**Present:** Laity 16 Clergy 4 – names noted in the attendance record

The Area Dean opened the meeting with prayer.

**Apologies for absence:** received from Simon Brocklehurst, Jonathan Montgomery, Liz Quinn, Rosie Greenlees, Jill Phipps, Sue Wells.

1. **The Minutes** of the synod meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were accepted as a correct record, with the following amendments: Item 6, line 6 – amend 2024 to 2023.

**2. Information items:**

- a. Lay Worship Leaders: the eleven participants completing the deanery course were commissioned by the archdeacon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024. It is hoped to provide a further training opportunity later this year. A range of other training opportunities for lay ministry is available in the diocese and it may be possible to share in the delivery of these with other deaneries.
- b. Deanery Ascension Day Service – 9<sup>th</sup> May. The eucharist, at St Nicholas, Wickham, was attended by members from parishes across the deanery, with a large choir of 50 singers and featured Vivaldi's Gloria as the music setting for the service. An invitation was received from St Peter's, Bishops Waltham to host next year's service.
- c. Diocesan Synod Report – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (copy attached to these minutes)  
*(Post-meeting note: Bishops Waltham Deanery has been invited to present an update of current developments to the Diocesan Synod on 15<sup>th</sup> June.)*
- d. Treasurer's Report – previously distributed and noted.

**3. Diocesan Synod elections.**

The election of members of the diocesan synod for the next triennium will take place this coming July. The electorate able to vote in the election comprises members of the deanery synod. All those on the electoral roll of parishes in the deanery are eligible for nomination, together with members of deanery chapters. Detailed information will be circulated from the diocesan office.

**4. Ghana inter-diocesan partnership**

Bishop Jonathan has recently visited Ghana to visit the several dioceses, meet with their bishops and affirm our diocese's sharing in the Inter-Diocesan West Africa Link.

A request has been received from St Nicholas Seminary, which is the training college for priests for the whole province, for assistance with the purchase of a vehicle to

replace the bus used to transport students in the course of their studies, which is now no longer serviceable. It was unanimously agreed to use the remaining monies in the deanery Ghana support fund (currently £6612) as a contribution to achieve this. The diocesan Ghana link team will be asked to facilitate the transfer of funds in due course.

## **5. Resourcing Deanery Ministry and Mission**

### **a. Update on bids for Strategic Funding**

- i. Enabling Growth in the Meon Valley Parishes – the final version of the detailed scenario supporting the bid for funding has been submitted to the diocesan strategic overview team for consideration for inclusion in the diocese's overall development profile.
- ii. Family, Youth and Children Leadership – the task group (*James Hunt, Rachel Houlberg, Andy Davis, Jill Phipps, Greg Mensingh, Kate Smythe*) preparing the bid for support in this priority area for mission growth is meeting soon to refine the focus and detailed content for a potential bid. Continuing contact with the diocesan strategic team will ensure the proposal resonates with overall development across the diocese.

### **b. Generosity Week**

The synod welcomed Chris Parker, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser, to be briefed by him on the vision, principles and practical activities of Generosity Week – an initiative designed to enhance the enthusiasm and engagement of church members for giving financial support, as well as generosity of time and talent, to the Church's mission. He emphasised the project's aim of enlarging our willingness to be generous in our giving, within a context where financing the Church's ministry is now very heavily dependent on local fund-raising. He encouraged members to raise awareness in their parishes about the challenge and opportunity of Generosity Week, which is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> Sept to 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, though parishes can work the programme flexibly around those dates.

*(post-meeting note: the slides and presentation notes have been circulated to deanery synod members for local use.)*

### **c. Future financial scenarios**

The Deanery Finance Group Chair, Paul Emmerson, reminded synod members that he is constantly in touch with parish treasurers to review the overall condition of finances. It is clear that several parishes in the deanery will need to use accumulated funds this year to meet the costs of parish share. Synod members were invited to share with each other their responses to the recently distributed Parish Share Review Questionnaire. The collected responses across the diocese have been collated and a further consultation paper will be issued soon, outlining possible future scenarios for the assessment and collection of parish shares.

**Date of next meeting : 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024**