

Bishop's Waltham Deanery Synod
Minutes of meeting
14th October 2024
St Nicholas Church, Wickham

Area Dean - Revd Canon David Isaac

Lay Chair – Paul Quinn

Present: Laity 22 Clergy 5 – names noted in the attendance record

The Area Dean opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed guests Vanda Leary and Deborah Sutton.

Apologies for absence: received from Andrew Wilkinson, Rob Scott, Jonathan Montgomery, Jill Phipps, Andy Davis, David Hughes, Jane Salmon, Andy Mulley, John Symes

1. **The Minutes** of the synod meeting held 13th May 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

2. **Matters Arising:**

Ghana link: the agreed transfer of funds to Ghana in support of the purchase of a vehicle for use by St Nicholas Seminary is still pending, awaiting for details from the diocesan IDWAL team of the transfer route. (*post meeting note: details now received and transfer can be implemented*)

Strategic funding bid – update:

Support for the Meon Valley Parishes initiative has been included in the diocese's current bid for strategic funding support. Outcome of the bid is anticipated to be received on Oct 31st.

The group formed to shape a bid for work with Families, Children and Youth had been so far hampered by circumstance in pursuing its task. James Hunt reported that the group is scheduled to meet soon and that, in response to changing perceptions, its focus may broaden to look at the promotion of pioneer leadership across the deanery.

The possibility of promoting pioneer ministry in the Boorley Park estate has been discussed and is open for further reflection.

Lay Worship Leaders

The initial cohort of lay worship leaders commissioned in the deanery are meeting soon to review their involvement so far leading worship. It is hoped to recruit sufficient participants by next Spring for a further training course.

The diocese has asked that a list of all those involved in lay ministries (worship, occasional preaching, pastoral care) be prepared by each deanery, to draw together relevant recording of their dates of commissioning, DBS status and safeguarding training.

3. Diocesan Synod Elections:

In the election for membership of the diocesan synod in June the following were elected to represent the deanery:

House of Laity

Adrian Jordan, Petrina Hillier, Rachel Houlberg, Paul Quinn,
John Symes

House of Clergy

James Hunt

To complete the deanery's quota of representative, two further places in both houses remain to be filled.

In preparation for this deanery synod meeting members were invited to nominate candidates for election and the following nominations were received by the declared closing date:

House of Laity

Amanda Wollam
Susan Wells

House of Clergy

Keith Wickeart
Rosie Greenlees

Since the number of nominations did not exceed the available places, the chair declared the above to be duly elected and thanked them and their colleagues for their willingness to serve in this role.

4. Finance Report

The Treasurer's report of current funds, circulated in advance. was received and noted.

The Chair of the Finance Group, Paul Emmerson, presented his report noting particularly that:

12 of the 14 parishes in the deanery are on course to pay in full their parish share

2 parishes are potentially going to experience difficulties in avoiding significant shortfall in payment.

His discussions with parish treasurers indicate that several may need to draw on reserve funds to meet both parish share and current running costs.

The Parish Share Review Group will be reporting to the diocesan synod in November on the outcome of the consultation on future modes of assessment of liability for parish share – which

will form the basis for diocesan budgeting for 2025, including possible new assessment for parishes.

In asking for comment on Generosity Week it was indicated that several parishes had focussed on it, during services and in study groups.

5. Mission and Ministry Development – Vision and Strategy

Vanda Leary – Diocesan Strategic Development Adviser presented an engaging and comprehensive summary of the Vision themes and Strategic routes adopted by the diocesan synod for shaping development across all our parishes, under the broad headings of Revive, Revitalise and Renew. The scenario is the background to the current bids that have been made for national church support and will also be the basis for shaping further bids for 2025.

A set of Vanda's slides will be sent to deanery synod members for local use.

The direction now set by the diocese is a stimulus to deaneries to review and renew their own development plans, looking ahead to the next 3 to 5 years. For any proposals emerging from this to be effective they need to be rooted in parish participation in their formation. It was agreed to request the deanery standing committee to shape an appropriate process of shared engagement and discussion across our PCC's and congregations, during the first part of 2025, with a target date of giving an update to the Bishop's Staff Team in May.

Date of next meeting : tba, in the light of this continuing process.