

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.45 pm on Thursday 30th July, 2009
at Ashperton Village Hall.

Attendance:

House of Clergy Rev'd M.D.Vockins (Rural Dean), Rev'd P Dunthorne (Ledbury), Rev'd M.Horton (Colwall), Rev'd A Lanyon-Hogg (Colwall), Rev'd E Reed (Ledbury), Rev'd N Seabright (Ledbury), Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt (Ledbury), Rev'd Robert Ward (C, M & S), Rev'd J Watkins (Ledbury).

House of Laity Mr I.D.S.Beer (Lay Co-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs D. Allen (Eastnor), Mrs D. Allen (Eastnor), Mr I. Bailey (Cradley), Dr C. Bainton (Ledbury), Mr D Barnett-Roberts (Munsley), Mrs C. Blackaby (Ledbury), Mr M. Brothers (Ledbury), Mrs D Davies (Canon Frome), Dr J. Higgins (Pixley), Mr M. Johnson (Coddington), Mr D McKerracher (Mathon), Mr A. Mence (Tarrington), Mr C. Myles (Ashperton), Miss C Panter (Diocesan Synod), Mr G Probyn (Mathon), (Deanery Treasurer), Mrs M Roberts (Colwall), Mrs A. M. Russell (Ashperton), Mr B. Speakman (Wellington Heath), Mrs M. Taylour (Colwall), Mrs E. Toyer (Ledbury), Mr B. Tremayne (Aylton), Mrs S. Tyrrell (Putley), Mr B. Willder (Stretton Grandison).

Apologies for Absence Dr R Allsopp, Mrs V. Avery, Mr G. Burke, Mrs E Clutterbuck (Bosbury), Mr M. Greensmith, Rev'd H Mayell, (Ledbury) Mr F. Seabright.

In Attendance Mr W. Hopkinson (Acting Secretary), Jen Dunford Storridge), Marion Percy (Colwell), Susi James (Most Holy Trinity, Ledbury), Jan James (Ledbury), Di Hames (Cradley), Mike Hames (Cradley), Eileen Pachon (Ledbury), Sue Bailey (Cradley), Philip Thomsett, (Ledbury Elim), Steve Taylor (Ledbury Elim).

- 1. Children and Young People Project.** The Rural Dean opened a presentation on this subject, beginning with worship which included a short meditation and opening prayer.
 - i. Synod was advised that since the Wellington Heath Synod, when Synod had agreed to go ahead with the project set out

by Rev'd Paul Dunthorne, a small working group had met to formulate the Deanery's bid for Diocesan Mission Funding for the setting up, and training, of teams to go into schools, working closely with the schools by offering Bible teaching and taking the good news of Jesus Christ. The bid had proved successful, with the Deanery being allocated £9,000 over five years, for this work.

- ii. Members and visitors (including a number from other churches in the area) were then invited to take part in a table-top exercise in which they had to group as Vital, Important, Not So Important, and Unimportant fifteen criteria about working with children:

- To make links with non-church families
- To show children they are valued
- To enable children to grow up knowing Jesus
- To convert children to Christianity
- To teach children discipline and morality
- To ensure children are Baptised and Confirmed
- To give children the experience of worshipping God
- To tell children Bible stories
- To give children a fun time and keep them occupied
- To produce the future adult generation of the Church
- To give parents support in bringing their children up in the Christian Faith
- To offer children love, friendship and acceptance
- To allow children to experience belonging to a Christian community
- To help children discover and respond to God's love for them
- To help children develop mentally, physically, spiritually and socially

- iii. As a result of the exercise many of the groups considered "helping children discover and respond to God's love for them" as the most vital.
- iv. The exercise provided a valuable focus to a presentation on the "Open The Book" (OTB) scheme given by Kate Barratt and Lucie Grindle from Weston-under-Penyard School. Kate had begun this project from scratch and had encouraged others to join her. The scheme involved literally opening the book (The Lion Storyteller Bible) and telling a story to

children, in collective worship, class sessions or after-school activities. The OTB Trust provided a handbook to help in the preparation of the story-telling and to advise on the story-telling itself and, for those who signed up to the OTB scheme, additional material and support was available from the Trust (including via its web-site).

- v. Synod then considered the next step forward, and agreed to stage a workshop evening on Wednesday 14th October (time and venue to be considered) for all who might wish to explore further. Rev'd Melanie Horton spoke of the potential opportunities that existed for working with John Masefield High School (as well as with the Deanery's seven primary schools plus The Downs and The Elms schools at Colwall).
 - vi. Synod noted the project was intended to be ecumenical and not simply Anglican.
 - vii. The presentation ended with views of children tellingly expressed through a Year of the Child DVD clip.
3. **Minutes of the Synod** held on 26th March, 2009 were approved, subject to amending the attendance to include Mrs M Taylour.⁵

4. Matters arising:

- i. Item 2 Appointment of Secretary. Only one nomination had been received, that of Mr William Hopkinson. The Lay Co-Chairman therefore proposed the appointment of Mr Hopkinson from 1 August, which was agreed. He expressed the thanks of Synod to Mr Hopkinson for taking on this role. He also reported that Mr J Barnes was now enjoying much improved health.
- ii. Item 5 Finance. The Lay Co-Chairman reported on a Meeting with the Archdeacon on Finance. This had covered the Phasing Allocation and the timing of diocesan procedures. There was nothing to report on the former. The latter had been understood and it was hoped that the Diocese would be able to publish the budget figures earlier in 2010; there could not be any change for 2009, but

the Deanery Treasurer would do his best to meet the deadlines as published in the Funding Agreement.

5. Finance. The Treasurer presented his report on the current state of play. A little more money had come in since that was compiled. The Deanery had met its full quota for the second quarter and was on course to meet the third quarter also. Synod took note.

6. Standing Committee. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2009.

- i. Item 6. The Rector of Ledbury, recognizing that the matter was for SC not the Synod expressed the view that the sentence referring to his role should be deleted. The Lay Co-Chairman undertook to report the matter at the next SC.
- ii. Item 12. The Lay Co-Chairman reported that he had written conveying the Deanery's good wishes to the new Bishop of Ludlow. The Bishop-designate had sent a kind reply recalling the pleasant times he had passed near Ledbury and looking forward to being once more in the area.

7. Deanery Plan.

- i. Pastoral visiting. The rural Dean reported that he had run 2 courses last Autumn. He will run others if parishes desire that. There had been relatively small response from the smaller parishes, where there had seemed the greatest need and greatest interest initially, but he would be happy to work on an individual parish basis if so requested.
- ii. Communications Mr Greensmith had reported to the The Lay Co-Chairman that the new Diocesan website was now operating and he was liaising with our Webmaster and with Frank Seabright.
- iii. Young people. See Item 1 above.
- iv. Social event. As reported in the SC minutes of 8 July, the Rural Dean had suggested an event involving poetry, prose, food and conviviality, following an idea put forward by Mr. David McKerracher of Mathon. He was to explore this further with Mr David Mckerracker who had previous experience of successfully staging such events. The Rev'd M Horton had suggested also a Deanery Youth event and she was liaising with Mr Andy Clark of St Peter's, Hereford on that.

8. **Diocesan Synod report.** Miss C Panter gave a brief resumé (a fuller note is annexed). She asked Synod members to note particularly the Vision Day scheduled for 9 January for Fresh Experiences at Ludlow. She referred also to the Annual Report for 2008.

9. **Bishop's Council report.** The Rev'd P Dunthorne reported on the restructuring of the Bishop's Council which would follow the election of a new Council in the near future. Neither of the existing Synod members would stand for reelection and the Deanery might not be represented after the elections. It was not necessary for every deanery to be represented but the flow of information to the Deanery might be adversely affected. The Report on Pensions was also discussed, leading to the recent diocesan Synod meeting.

10. **Synod Elections.** The acting secretary said that the Deanery was entitled to 5 places in the House of Clergy, and 5 in. The Co-Chairmen has places ex-officio. Sufficient nominees had come forward to enable the Deanery to take its places in the House of Clergy, though no election had been necessary. The Rev'ds P Dunthorne, M Horton, H Mayell and R Ward had been declared elected. For the House of Laity only two candidates had come forward. Miss C Panter and himself. These had, therefore been declared the members.

11. Mtwara report.

i. Mrs E Toyer reported on a change of priests in Mtwara. She also mentioned certain disbursements: £4,000 had been sent to provide a roof for the church at Likondi; £500 to provide food for the children in the kindergarten at Mtwara; Ledbury Christians together gave £50 for the purchase of bibles. Next year it was hoped to invite visitors from Mtwara to this country but to do that we needed to replace the money laid out. Parishes' help with fundraising would be most welcome

ii. Masasi diocese is to be divided into two; Mtwara will be in the new diocese of Nwala and the new bishop, Oscar Mnung'a will be consecrated on 6th September.*The links with Ligula school have been disappointing; it is hoped to establish a link with another school.

iii. The Hereford diocesan meeting had been most useful in giving a wider view of the situation in Tanzania. Finally, Mrs Toyer asked synod members always to remember the people of Mtwara in their prayers.

12. Good news and forthcoming events. The Rev'd R Ward reported on the success of Cradley's Angels Festival.

13.. Dates of forthcoming Synod Meetings:

Thursday, 24th September Ledbury Chapter House.

(At this meeting we shall ask parishes to update Synod on their 5 Year Plans).

Thursday, 26th November Colwall, The Ale House.

For 2010 Synod agreed the following dates:

SC	Synod
3 March	25 March
7 July	29 July
1 September	23 September
3 November	25 November

14. Any other business. None

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Annex

Brief Report from Diocesan Synod, July 16th 2009 at Ludlow

1. The meeting opened with a short act of Worship

2. Bishop Anthony gave a short Presidential Address

The Bishop talked about when he first became a Bishop, he decided to take special interest in the -

I) 'Rich & Poor' both in UK and Internationally

II) 'Breakdown of marriage and Family life'.

He went on to talk about what we should be doing as **Church**, and he suggested three areas of concern for us -

1) Poverty

2) Environment

3) Interfaith, both local and national

- but we do not need to concentrate so much on Marriage and Family, as the Mother's Union do this, though now 'Flame' has gone, there is a wider gap in this work.

The Bishop concluded by asking 'how do we respond as a Church, there are many opportunities and many needs' ?

3. **Fresh Expressions** - (www.freshexpressions.org.uk)

This is a joint initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Methodist Council, & partnered with many other Christian denominations.

A presentation about this was given by Norman Ivison, the Director of Communication and Resources within the Fresh Expressions Team.

He told us that -

- all around the country there are signs of God's Spirit on the move
- new types of Churches are emerging
- new types of ministers are emerging (LPM's & OMP's)
- Church leaders are encouraging the 'new expressions'

Characteristics of 'fresh expressions' -

- Mission, especially to folk who would not come to 'church'
- A new way of thinking - attract folk (Alpha and others)
- Emerging method - send folk out to community, eg: to Skate Park, and build church there.

Why?

Research says - 26% of population only go to church once a year
 6% are open - might go to church
 5% never go or think of going to church

A date for your diary - January 9th 2010 in Ludlow. A Vision Day for Fresh Expressions - a special gathering to tell us more about this exciting initiative and its relevance to us.

4. The Diocesan Annual Report is available - *ask your Diocesan Synod member for their copy.*

5. Accounts - in 2008, 98% of the Parish share was paid.

11 Deaneries met the share in full.

84.87% of the budget is used for Ministry and Mission

- for this year the Share is ahead of schedule - 'keep it up' said the Diocesan Treasurer!
- Share next year will need to be higher (*- stipend increase; reduced central funds due clergy vacancies at end of year(not intentional); increase in payments from Diocese to central funds; increase in Clergy Pensions).

A copy of the accounts for 2008 can be obtained from the Diocesan Office or borrowed from your Diocesan Synod member.

6. Clergy Pensions - a paper had been sent to Synod members, *and the agenda gave the following information - **

- a. Recommended National Stipend increase of 1.2% (i.e. +c£10k on current cost.
- b. Reduction from £388,719 to £372,973 in central funds paid to Diocese (i.e. +c£16k)
- c. Increase from £335,180 to £347,550 in contribution by Diocese to central costs (i.e. +c£12k)

- d. Increase in Clergy pension contribution from 38.7% to 45% of previous year's National Minimum Stipend (i.e. +c£108k)

These increases alone would require a c4% increase in current share if no mitigating action is taken. However the Executive Committee of the DBF will be critically examining budget bids to ensure that, in line with one of the basic principles adopted in budget preparation since 2006, "*Parish Share increases ... are modest and manageable*".

The paper mentioned above, sets out the latest situation regarding Clergy pensions and requests Diocesan comment by 31 Oct 09.

A full debate on Clergy Pensions will take place in November.

7. **Experience Easter and the Open Book** – by Norris Boylen
Experience Easter had had 27 venues, 450 volunteers, 41 Primary Schools, 66 Parishes. Helpers gained confidence in telling the Christian story; children entered into the events and enjoyed them, do it every Easter! There are others too for Christmas, Harvest and Pentecost.
Open the Book – this is ongoing – teams going into schools to tell the Christian story. 20 teams in the Diocese of 4 or 5 people.
8. **General Synod Report** – in 1978 the synod recommended that Church members try to give 5 % of their income to the Church – this is still not being met. Hereford is bottom of the 'national league' with just over £5 being given by members – the highest in the 'league' is just over £8 per head per week.
 - In answer to a question – the House of Bishops does publish its accounts.
 - The Church Commissioners - good investment advice has improved their finances
 - Opening Doors – a debate and experience of the needs of the Disabled and Autistic ... *learn, listen and understand their needs.*
9. **The New Diocesan Synod** will be confirmed on July 22nd. This was the last meeting of the present Synod.
10. **A bouquet of flowers** was presented to Diana George, the Lay Co Chair and Chair of the House of Laity, as she is retiring from the post.
11. The meeting closed with Prayer.