

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing & Business Committee held on
1 September 2011 at 7.00 pm
at Bosbury House.

Present: Rev'd Prebendary M. Vockins (Rural Dean), Mr. I. Beer (Lay Co-Chairman, in the Chair), Mr I. Bailey, Rev'd P.Dunthorne, Mr N. Hills, Mr N. Hone, Mr W. Hopkinson (Secretary), Rev'd M Horton, Mr G. Probyn (Treasurer), Mr D. Longman , Rev'd Prebendary S. Strutt, Rev'd R.Ward.

Opening Prayers: were said by the Rural Dean. The Lay Co-Chairman welcomed Mr D. Longman to his first meeting, and the Rev'd Prebendary S. Strutt to her first meeting of the Committee in its new form. He also expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr Hone for the latter's most kind hospitality.

- 1. Letter 15 August to PCCs:** Mr Hone said that he wished the minutes of this meeting to record his dissent from the letter sent out and from the minutes of the meeting of 3 August. He did not approve of either and believed that Mr Hills would join him in that. Mr Hone intended to write to all PCCs setting out his alternative view of what should be done. He felt that SBC was not representative and not the right forum for the handling of such matters. Strong dissent from the latter point was expressed by several members of the committee. SBC had recently been reconstituted to improve representation: members (except for the Rural Dean) had either been elected directly or held office to which they had been elected. (The benefice holders were there in accordance with arrangements just approved by Synod.) Doubt was expressed as to the capacity, other than a purely private one, in which Mr Hone could be writing. The Lay Co- chairman said that he was satisfied that the minutes and the letter reflected accurately his carefully formulated proposal. The three elements were a package to be taken together and this had been accepted by the Committee. After further discussion, in which the clear view was expressed by all that the issues were now for PCCs, and the Ledbury Rector reported that he was calling a widely representative meeting of his entire benefice on the matter for mid-September, the meeting took note of Mr Hone's position: he undertook to let the Chairmen see his draft before dispatch.
- 2. Deanery Directory 2012:** The Final Draft as circulated was approved subject to a few minor additions and corrections, and to the discussion to

be held under Item 11 on the pattern of future meetings. SBC expressed its great thanks to Mr J Barnes for the excellent work he had done in producing the 2012 Directory and agreed the expenditure of £209 for 300 copies.

3. Finance:

- i. **Treasurer's Report on current year:** The Treasurer said that progress was satisfactory. The Deanery was already able to remit the current Quarter's Parish Share to the Diocese. Asked about the system for rebates, the Treasurer said that to qualify parishes need to pay by the end of the penultimate month of each Quarter. SBC invited the Treasurer to provide a short Note explaining the system to go to Synod with the figures for the current Quarter.
- ii. **Budgeting and Parish share for 2012:** The Treasurer said that there was nothing further to report on this, pending the next meeting of the RAP.

4. **Stewardship:** The Lay Co-Chairman reported that Mr J. Sands had taken on the role of liaison with the Diocese. He would ask at Synod that Parishes contact Mr Sands to brief him on where they were on this important issue. Mr Hone said that the support of a Stipendiary Clergy was vital: The Church served not only those who attended regularly but the whole community. He believed that more could and should be done to seek financial support from the wider population as support from congregations was about at its limit. The Lay Co-Chairman said that he entirely agreed about the wider importance of the Church, and certainly did not rule out seeking support from the wider community. That was different, however, from Stewardship which was about the individual's considering his own circumstances and his relationship with God.

5. **Good News:** On 11 September Aylton was having a Cricket Afternoon; Yarkhill was to have a festival In Praise of Harvest. There was to be a concert in the Elms School for fundraising for Colwall. Cradley was to have a Musical Harvest on 8 October, also for fundraising. The parish had seen a very good response to its initiative with young people – about 30 additional attenders per month.

6. Deanery 5 year Plan:

- i. **2015 Onwards:** There had been little change since the last Synod. The Rev'd C. Pascoe was on board for help and there would shortly be a meeting of the Hop Churches to discuss the paper. The team (essentially J. Barnes and S. Strutt) stood ready to visit

any parish that asked, but so far no requests had been received. The Rural Dean urged that the message be put to PCCs that they should consider that. The Lay Co-chairman reported that the Rev'd N. Berry, formerly Dean of Gloucester, now resident in Ledbury, was prepared to join the Working Group if invited.

- ii. **Training:** The Rural Dean reported that there would be an Open the Book training session on 5 September at Putley. An additional OtB team has been recruited to visit Ledbury Primary School; this will be on a weekly basis.
- iii. **Children and Young Persons:** The Lay Co-Chairman undertook to pursue the contact with John Masefield School.
- iv. **Social Activities:** The Lay Co-Chairman reported that there was now a firm booking for a Jubilee Lunch at the Ledbury Rugby Club on 26 May 2012. It would now be desirable to appoint a small group, and a chairman, to oversee this event. He would raise that at Synod; meanwhile, members might think of suitable candidates, who need not be members of Synod. SBC agreed that the Rural Dean might try to engage the services of the clown Roly Bain for the event.

7. **Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod:** Nothing to Report.
8. **Minutes of Synod 28 July and SBC 3 August:** Noted. See Item 1 above for the reservation made by Mr Hone.
9. **Agenda for Synod 29 September:** The Draft Agenda was agreed after a brief discussion. It was agreed that in circulating it members of Synod should be reminded about submitting matters for AOB and that motions from Members or parishes were welcome. Consideration was also given to the handling of the Anglican Covenant. The Rural Dean, along with his fellow RDs and the Archdeacon, had commissioned a paper for dissemination to synods. The Covenant was a very complex matter, with considerable documentation, and it was felt a short explanatory Note for circulation to synod members would be helpful and welcome. When we had the Note it would be possible to consider how the Deanery might best consider the issue – the Diocese apparently had until April to respond to the General Synod.
10. **Future Pattern of Meetings:** The Secretary outlined the results of the consultation carried out after the last Synod. SBC agreed that no case was made out for a change and invited the Secretary to put a short Note to Synod. Meanwhile, the 2012 Directory would have provisional entries. As regards its own meetings, SBC decided, after discussion, to maintain its usual Wednesday pattern but to meet at 5 pm rather than 2.30 pm. The

Rev'd R Ward reported that in response to concerns expressed about access the November meeting of Synod would now take place in Storridge rather than Cradley.

11. Dates of forthcoming Synod/SBC Meetings:

- (i) **Synod:** 29th September (Munsley WI Hall); and 24th November (Storridge Village Hall).
- (ii) **Standing Committee:** 5 pm on Wednesday 2nd November.

12. Any other business: The Lay Co-Chairman reported that there was unfortunately a problem with the Visas for the two visitors who had hoped to come from Mtwara this year. The matter had been taken up with the High Commission. Meanwhile, new members were urgently required for the Mtwara Committee and he would raise that again at Synod.

The meeting finished at 9.05 pm with prayers.