

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee held on 2 September, 2009
at 2.30 pm at Birchwood Lodge, Birchwood, Storridge.

Present: Rev'd Prebendary M.D.Vockins (Rural Dean), Mr. I.D.S.Beer (Lay Co-Chairman, in the Chair), Mr.M.W.Brothers, Mr.B.Speakman, and Mr.G.W.Hopkinson (Secretary).

1. **Welcome and opening prayers.** The Lay Co-Chairman welcomed all present and prayers were said by the Rural Dean.
2. **Apologies** Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt, Rev'd R.Ward, Mr.M.W.Greensmith, Mr G.Probyn (Treasurer).
3. **Minutes of the Standing Committee** held on 8 July were approved, subject to an amendment to the second paragraph of Item 6.
4. **Matters arising:** None.
5. **Deanery Synod Minutes of Meeting 30 July:** Noted.
6. **Finance.**
 - (i) Treasurer's Report: Monies from parishes continued to come in well.
 - (ii) Financial Summary 2008. SC decided to recommend approval of the 2008 Accounts to Synod.
 - (iii) 2010. There were as yet no firm indications about the increase in the Diocesan budget for next year. It would, nevertheless be important to give PCC Treasurers what guidance we could at the end of September, even if that was only that the figures were still unknown. There were as yet no firm indications about the increase in the Diocesan budget for next year. The Treasurer would report to Synod with whatever information he then had and, afterwards, inform PCC Treasurers with whatever guidance he could at the end of September.
7. **Deanery 5 Year Plan: Parish Plans:** The Lay Co-Chairman suggested that the Deanery plan should be revisited at the next meeting after the consideration of the Parish Plans. SC agreed. Meanwhile:
 - (i) Training Sessions for Pastoral visiting. There was nothing further to report on this.

- (ii) Communications and Deanery Web-site. The Diocesan site was operational, as was its link to the Deanery site. Minutes of meetings to date would be placed on the latter. Significant progress had been made in moving members of Synod to the use of email.
- (iii) Children and Young People (see separate item Agenda 10).
- (iv) Social Event (see separate item Agenda 10).

8. Diocesan Synod Elections: The Secretary reported that the deanery had not filled its quota of places on the Diocesan Synod. Consultations with the Diocesan Secretary had led to the proposal to use the casual vacancy provisions to make one or more appointments. It would be sufficient in the circumstances in the Deanery House of Laity endorsed candidates whose names could then be forwarded to the Diocese. We had one potential candidate – Mr. J. Higgins; the Rural Dean undertook to sound Mrs. S Tyrrell who had formerly been a member, and to ask the benefice holders if they could suggest possible candidates in time for the meeting on 24 September.

The Secretary reported his election to the new Bishop's Council.

9. Ledbury Deanery Synod: New Directory: SC recorded their deep appreciation for the work of Mr J. Barnes in preparing this work.
10. Children and Young Persons: The Rural Dean reported that he had arranged for the Open Book people in Gloucester to run the training session for the Deanery. He would ask the Clergy to publicise this in their magazines.
11. Social Activities: The Rural Dean was to have a meeting with Mr. McKerracher; he would also involve the Rev'd M. Horton. There might be a link with the Children and Young Persons work.

12. Deanery Synod Meetings

The 2010 Synod meetings were confirmed as

- (i) 25th March, at Much Marcle
- (ii) 29th July, at Ashperton
- (iii) 23rd September, at Ledbury Chapter House
- (iv) 25th November, at Colwall Ale House.

13. A.O.B. The Lay Co-Chairman said that he was considering inviting the Rev'd N. Reed to give a presentation on 26 November and this idea was enthusiastically supported by the SC. Therefore he would contact the Rev'd N.Reed and report back.