

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee held on 4th March, 2009
at 2.30 pm at Birchwood Lodge, Birchwood, Storridge.

Attendance: Rev'd M.D.Vockins (Rural Dean), Mr. I.D.S.Beer (Lay Co-Chairman, in the Chair), Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt, Rev'd M.Horton, Rev'd R.Ward, Mr.M.W.Brothers, Mr.B.Speakman, and Mr.G.Probyn (Deanery Treasurer)

Apologies for Absence: Mr.J.F.Barnes (Secretary) and Mr.M.W.Greensmith.

1. Welcome and opening prayers. The Lay Co-Chairman welcomed all present and prayers were said by the Rural Dean.

2. Minutes of the Standing Committee held on 5th November, 2008 were approved.

3. Matters arising:

- (i) Item 8.Understanding Easter. This was being organized in the parish churches of Bosbury, Cradley, Ledbury and, possibly, Ashperton. Schools were being invited.

4. Finance.

- (i) Treasurer's Report: Monies from parishes were coming in well. The Treasurer hoped to pay our first quarter's quota in full and on time.
- (ii) Financial Summary 2008
This was accepted and approved, and accompanies these Minutes.
- (iii) Phasing for 2009
A separate paper accompanies these Minutes recommending that Synod confirm the decision taken at the last Synod to place the Phasing Allocation for 2009 into Deanery Reserves.
- (iv) Review of Rebate Scheme for Prompt payment of Parish Share.
It was decided to recommend to Synod that those Parishes who met their quota on time should receive the full 2% rebate which the Deanery receives from the Diocese.

5. Deanery Plan.

- (i) Training Sessions for Pastoral visiting.
The Rural Dean had completed a further 3-session course for six people, whose clergy had been advised. A further course on bereavement visiting was under consideration. The Rural Dean is available to Parishes for further courses if required.
- (ii) Communications and Deanery Web-site
Nothing to report.
- (iii) Children and Young People (taken as a separate item Agenda 6)

- (iv) Concert held on the 1st March, 2009

This proved a great success. Many people had been thanked, especially Colin Myles who organized the event, and the ladies and gentlemen of Tarrington for their arrangements and a magnificent tea. Twice the number of chairs anticipated had been required and the Hall was full. A surplus after expenses of £529 has been paid into the Deanery reserves.

6. Children and Young People.

The Lay Co-Chair reminded everyone that Synod had approved i) the principle of presenting a bid to the Diocese for funding for this project and ii) that a small Working Party should draft the bid, reporting through the Standing Committee. The Group: RD, Lay Co-Chair, Rev'd Paul Dunthorne, Rev'd Melanie Horton, Alison Paton (Cradley School) and Shaun Warren (Head of RE at John Masefield School) were meeting on the 11th March when it was hoped their work would be completed and the bid presented.

7. Mtwara.

A presentation had been made by Rev'd Judy and Dr Robert Scholefield at Ashperton on 16th January, 2009. It had been very well attended and much was learnt from the excellent presentation.

The Lenten lunches at Cradley, Mathon and Storridge were being dedicated to Mtwara. The link was now clearly established as a Deanery responsibility.

8. Deanery Synod Meetings

The Synod meetings were confirmed as

- (i) 26th March, 2009 at Much Marcle
- (ii) 30th July, 2009 at Ashperton
- (iii) 24th September, 2009 at Ledbury Chapter House
- (iv) 26th November, 2009 at Colwall, Ale House.

9. A.O.B.

In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. J.F.Barnes, the Lay Co-Chair informed the Meeting that Jim had been in hospital, returning home today or tomorrow. Moreover, after much thought, he had reluctantly decided that he should resign as Deanery Secretary due to the uncertainty over his health. Everyone expressed their good wishes to Jim Barnes and wished him well. His work as Secretary had been quite exemplary and he deserved all thanks, not only for his great efficiency, but the Christian spirit in which he dealt with all his tasks. After discussion, the question of his successor was left in the hands of the Rural Dean and Lay Co-Chair, hoping that a substitute might be found for the next meeting of Synod on 26th March when nominations for the post of Secretary would be sought.

The meeting concluded at 4.20 pm with The Grace, and thanks to the Rural Dean for his hospitality.