

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee held on 8 July, 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), Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt, Rev'd M.Horton, Rev'd R.Ward, Mr.M.W.Brothers, Mr.M.W.Greensmith, Mr.B.Speakman.

In Attendance: Mr. W.Hopkinson (Acting Secretary)

1. **Welcome and opening prayers.** The Lay Co-Chairman welcomed all present and prayers were said by the Rural Dean.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Mr.G.Probyn (Deanery Treasurer).
3. **Minutes of the Standing Committee** held on 4 March 2009 were approved.
4. **Matters arising:** Item AOB Appointment of Secretary. The Lay Co-Chairman reported that he had received only one nomination, Mr W Hopkinson, and so Synod would be invited to appoint him at the next meeting.
5. **Deanery Synod:** Minutes of Meeting held on 26 March, previously circulated.
 - (i) 5b The Lay Co-Chairman reminded the Meeting that Synod had confirmed the Funding Agreement of 2007 and that the vital dates are:
 - a - **30 September** Deanery Treasurer sends anticipated % change in Deanery share to the three benefices;
 - b - **31 October** Treasurer sends proposed budget for following year, including PWE, to all benefices;
 - c - **30 November** Benefices send share allocation figures for all the parishes in their benefice, including PWE, to the Deanery Treasurer.

SC confirmed these arrangements, subject to the Diocese being able to provide the information in time.

(ii) 5e The Lay Co-Chairman reported on his meeting of 6 April with the Archdeacon on Finance. He had received strong support from other Lay Co-Chairmen and the Archdeacon had written (letter 11 June) confirming the outcome of the meeting and his own discussions with the Diocesan Secretary, the Chairman of the DBF and the Finance Secretary. Provided that it is agreed to make the Diocesan Synod the DBF, the timing of the finance cycle will be brought forward from next year so that the July meeting of the Diocesan Synod will agree the following year's Budget. This will enable Ledbury Synod's arrangements set out above to apply in 2100.

The Archdeacon, at the request of the lay Co-Chair, had also had discussions concerning phasing but no target date had been set for the completion of the adjustments.

- 6. Finance:** The Lay co-Chairman introduced the Treasurer's Report. He commented that this set out the state of play more clearly than at a comparable time in earlier years. The overall situation appeared satisfactory and the use of the phasing monies from reserves had ensured that the deanery received the diocesan rebate.

Mr Speakman reported concern on the part of the Cider and Hop Parishes about the allocation of monies in the Ledbury Benefice. He stated that a letter had been written by Mr. Ray Hunter and Mr. Nat Hone - he thought to the Treasurer - but no one had seen it and the Treasurer was on holiday. The Chairman reminded SC that in accordance with agreed procedure it should not involve itself in the sharing out of monies between parishes. The Rector of Ledbury had specifically taken upon himself the handling of finance within the Benefice. Mr Speakman reiterated that the situation was unsatisfactory. The Rural Dean emphasized the importance of an eirenic approach; it was important not to stir up negative feelings. The Lay Co-Chairman undertook to have an informal word with the Rector of Ledbury. SC took note.

- 7. Deanery Plan.** Parish Plans would be considered at the Synod meeting on 24 September. Meanwhile, as regards the four parts of the Deanery Plan:

(i) Training Sessions for Pastoral visiting. The Rural Dean had completed a further course and is prepared to do more if there is a demand. However, the smaller parishes who, initially, had expressed a desire for such training to be made available locally had not supported this well so far, and further encouragement might be needed in these parishes.

(ii) Communications and Deanery Web-site: The new Diocesan web-site would be operational from the following Friday (10 July). (The Deanery site was not much visited but was now significantly improved.) Mr Greensmith undertook to liaise with the webmaster and the Diocese to ensure that appropriate links were in place.

(iii) Children and Young People (see Agenda Item 10).

(iv) Social Activities: The Rural Dean suggested an event involving poetry, prose, food and conviviality, following an idea put forward by Mr. David McKerracher of Mathon. There was general enthusiasm for trying such a mixture, which should avoid being too high-brow. It was agreed that he should explore this further with Mr David Mckerracker who had previous experience of successfully staging such events.

The Rev'd M Horton suggested also a Deanery Youth event. This too was agreed and she was asked to liaise with Mr Andy Clark of St Peter's, Hereford.

8. Diocesan Synod Elections: The Deanery had been allocated 5 places in the House of Clergy, and 5 in the house of Laity. Four clerics (apart from the Rural Dean) had been nominated; and two laymen. No formal election had, therefore been necessary and the Rev'ds P Dunthorne, M Horton, H Mayell and R Ward had been declared elected, and, for the House of Laity, Miss C Panter and Mr W Hopkinson.

The Lay Co-Chairman said that it was disappointing that the Deanery was so relatively unrepresented. Under Church Representation Rule 30(5) (c) the Diocesan House of Laity may co-opt up to 5 members, and under Rule 30(6) the bishop may nominate 10 additional members. Therefore, if suitable candidates could be found, the Deanery could approach the Diocesan authorities to see whether additional representation could be arranged. He asked SC members to think about potential candidates.

9. Norris Boyland: Noting the sterling work that Mr Boyland had done in helping the Deanery over the years SC authorized the Lay Co-Chairman to send a cheque for £50 on (their) behalf of the Deanery.

10. Children and Young People: The Lay Co-Chairman informed SC of the positive response received from the Diocese to the Deanery's application for a grant, and the terms attached. The Rural Dean outlined his thinking about how matters should be carried forward. He would make a major presentation as the first item at the next meeting of Synod. He would focus initially on reaching younger children and would involve in his presentation Ms Kate Barrett. Before Synod, he would have an informal word with the Rector of Ledbury about how the latter would be involved in the programme.

11. Deanery Synod Meetings

The Synod meetings were confirmed as: 30th July, 2009 at Ashperton **(when the Business meeting would take place after the presentation of our Mission for Young people - non Synod members and anyone from other churches were all welcome.)**

- a. 24th September, 2009 at Ledbury Chapter House (To take Parish 5 Year Plans)
- b. 26th November, 2009 at Colwall, Ale House.

Proposed meetings for next year, which Synod would be asked to confirm at their next meeting are:

SC	03-Mar
Synod	25-Mar
SC	07-Jul
Synod	29-Jul
SC	01-Sep
Synod	23-Sep
SC	03-Nov
Synod	25-Nov

12. A.O.B. The new Bishop of Ludlow would be welcomed at a service in Ludlow on 4 October