

## LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee held on  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 2.30 pm  
at Birchwood Lodge, Storridge.

**Present:** Rev'd Prebendary M.D.Vockins (Rural Dean), Mr. I.D.S.Beer (Lay Co-Chairman, in the Chair), Rev'd P.Dunthorne, Mr.M.C.Greensmith, Mr. G.W.Hopkinson (Secretary), Mr G.Probyn (Treasurer), Mr. B.Speakman, , Rev'd R.Ward.

1. **Welcome and opening prayers.** Prayers were said by the Rural Dean. The Lay Co-Chairman then welcomed all present. He expressed the deep appreciation of SC to two retiring members, Mr Speakman and Mr Greensmith who had each given many years of devoted service; he also expressed SC's sincere thanks to Mr Brothers and Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt. Rev'd P.Dunthorne was welcomed, attending his first meeting of this body of which he would be a continuing member.
2. **Apologies.** Rev'd M.Horton, Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt.
3. **Agenda for Synod Meeting on 28 July:** - The Draft Agenda before the meeting was approved with minor changes. The Chairmen would emphasise the importance of Stewardship and MAPs. The Secretary explained his proposals for the election of the Standing and Business Committee and those were agreed.
4. **Revision of Parish 5 Year Plans:** The Joint Chairmen had written to Churchwardens. It was agreed that parishes must press on with MAPS, even if the full process would take a little while to be fully underway.
5. **Finance:**
  - i. Treasurer's Report on current year; the position was quite good. Some 97% of Parish Share had been received.
  - ii. Budgeting and Parish share. There were continuing problems over the figures put out to parishes in the Cider and Hop groups for their 2010 contributions. It was unacceptable that the totals sought from them by the Treasurer had been subject to unilateral alteration, despite the intervention of the Team Rector. It was vital that the new Synod got off on the right foot with this; the Treasurer and Secretary were instructed to produce a short clear Note setting out the facts and the decision of Synod about how Groups/benefices were to respond to the Treasurer's requests. The Treasurer would also call another meeting of parish Treasurers in the early Autumn to consider budgetary issues.
  - iii. Handling of Rebates. There was no current problem on this.

- iv. **Motor Mileage Allowance.** SC agreed that the revised AMAP and MAR of 45 p per mile was to be applied from 6 April 2011.
6. **Stewardship:** The Deanery was well regarded by the Diocese for its work on this and stood ready to assist any parish that sought its help. There was agreement that each parish should adopt Stewardship, as had been discussed at the Synod in March, 2011. The Lay Co-Chairman briefly outlined the changed thrust on it in Ledbury parish.
7. **Good News:** C,M&S's Mystery Play had been a great success. Their Stepping Stones service had also proved a popular initiative. Ledbury's Pentecost Away Day had been very successful as had the linked service.
8. **Deanery 5 year Plan:**
  - i. **Training.** Open the Book continued, and there would be another training session at the beginning of the next term.
  - ii. **Children and Young Persons.** Nothing to report.
  - iii. **Social Activities.** Consideration was to be given to a Jubilee linked celebration in late May or early June 2012. Mr Greensmith would look into the availability of Lebury RFC; Chapter would look at the best dates from a parish perspective.
9. **Diocesan Business:** Diocesan Synod would meet on 14 July. There would be a further (short) debate on Women Bishops. The Anglican Covenant was still to be addressed. The July BC was likely to be cancelled but BC had approved two reports on communications and work had now started on website.
10. **Agreed Minutes of SC 2 March and Synod 24 March:** Noted.
11. **Dates of forthcoming Synod/SBC Meetings:**
  - i. **Synod:** 28<sup>th</sup> July (Colwall Ale House); 29<sup>th</sup> September (Munsley WI Hall); and 24<sup>th</sup> November (Cradley Village Hall).
  - ii. **Standing and Business Committee:** Wednesday afternoons on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> November
12. **Any Other Business:** The Lay Co-Chairman would seek the approval of Mrs R Lording to put her note of General Synod on the Deanery Website. He also asked that identity labels be prepared for the new Synod. The Secretary reported that there was not yet a full list of new Synod members; there might, therefore, be some difficulties with some new members receiving the necessary material in time, as well as with preparing labels.