

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.45 pm on Thursday 29th September, 2011, at Munsley WI Hall

Attendance:

House of Clergy Rev'd Preb M Vockins (Rural Dean), Rev'd P Dunthorne (Ledbury), Rev'd H. Mayell (Ledbury), Rev'd N Seabright (Ledbury), Rev'd Prebendary S Strutt (Ledbury), Rev'd R Ward (CMS), Rev'd J Watkins (Ledbury).

House of Laity Mr I Beer (Lay Co-Chairman), Mr M Allfrey (Storrige), Mrs V Avery (Tarrington), Mr I Bailey (Cradley), Miss J Barber (Pixley), Mr A Bentley-Taylor (Much Marcle), Mrs E Clutterbuck (Bosbury), Mr M Greensmith, Mr R Hayden (Ashperton), Mr N Hone (Bosbury), Mr W Hopkinson (Secretary), Mr R Hunter (Deanery Synod), Mr M Johnson (Coddington), Mr D Kirkham (Ledbury), Mr J Lindeck (Ledbury), Mr D Longman (Colwall), Mr D McKerracher (Mathon), Mr A Mence (Tarrington), Miss C Panter (Diocesan Synod), Mrs R Preedy (Stretton Grandison) Mr G Probyn (Mathon), (Deanery Treasurer), Mrs F Robinson (Munsley), Mr J Sands (Cradley), Mr F Seabright (Bosbury), Mr W Simmonds (Ledbury), Mrs S Tyrrell (Putley).

In Attendance The Venerable G P Benson, Archdeacon of Hereford

Apologies for Absence Rev'd M Horton (Colwall), Rev'd F Iliffe (Ledbury), Rev'd E Reed (Ledbury), Rev'd J Schofield (Ledbury), Mr R Beard (Colwall), Ms E Harvey (Ledbury), Mr N Hills (Aylton), Mr C Myles (Ashperton), Mrs H Morgan (Cradley), Mrs M Roberts (Colwall), Rev'd A Lanyon-Hogg (Colwall), Miss E Sophia-White (Eastnor) Mr N Walker (Deanery Synod).

Welcome and Opening Prayers Opening prayers were conducted by the Rev'd Preb S Strutt. The Venerable G P Benson, on behalf of the Bishop of Hereford, then renewed the Rev'd Preb M Vockins' commission as Rural Dean, stressing the importance and grave duties of the office.

1. **Vocations.** The Rural Dean introduced the Rev'd Preb S Strutt in her capacity as Deanery Advisor on Vocations. She emphasised that in baptism all are called to follow Christ and by that sacrament each has a vocation and a ministry. The important thing was, to create a discerning community, to ascertain what God is seeking from and in our PCCs, and to identify gifts in each other. We are all part of the same Body of Christ, and need to make more effort to become disciples. There are ministries in all aspects of the Church's life and the Rev'd Preb S Strutt asked a number of people present to recall their journeys of service.

Mrs E Clutterbuck told of her time at Sunday School; then serving behind the scenes; then more prominently as Church Warden, PCC Secretary, bell-ringer and now a presenter for Open the Book. Over time, she had grown in confidence and felt able to move to positions of leadership.

Mr W Simmonds, now an Ordinand, spoke of the selection process, first at local and then at national level. He too mentioned his increasing confidence and the benefit of proceeding through the process.

The Rev'd Mr J Watkins, now ordained, had undertaken the taxing training whilst in full -time employment. It had been demanding but he had the support of an understanding family, though the pressures on them had been at times considerable. At first he had felt the course overwhelming but things had improved as time went on and he had found it ultimately confidence giving.

The Rev'ds P Dunthorne and N Seabright added some additional points. The Rev'd Preb S Strutt concluded by emphasising out that many had started from modest work and grown in the Church. The important thing was to *discern* vocations in ourselves and those around us, and then to *encourage* them. She and other clergy stood ready to advise anyone who wished to enquire further. Meanwhile, there was information on training on the Diocesan Website.

2. **Mission Action Plans (MAPs) and Parish Plans.** The Rural Dean reported on the further refinement that the Rev'd Caroline Pascoe, Diocesan Advisor, was undertaking on this. He had further notes available from that for anyone to take away.
3. **Stewardship.** The Lay Co-Chairman thanked Mr J Sands for undertaking liaison with the Diocese about Stewardship in all our Parishes. All parishes were asked to ensure that they emailed him (ejohnsands@yahoo.co.uk) about what they were doing on Stewardship.
4. **Finance.**
 - i. Accounts 2010; The Treasurer proposed their acceptance and was seconded by Mr D Kirkham. The accounts were adopted *nem con*.
 - ii. Current Year's Progress; The Treasurer said that the position was largely satisfactory. Some Parish Share had not yet come in but he was tolerably confident that it would. Clergy expenses were significantly up. The Lay Co-Chairman said that SBC would look at that.
 - iii. Letter to PCCs; Some replies had been received but many were still to come. The secretary would report on the position at the end of October.
 - iv. Budgeting for 2012. Diocesan Synod had yet to come to a decision but the increase in Parish Share was likely to be below 3%.
5. **Diocesan Business.** The Secretary reported that the recent Bishop's Council had been largely devoted to MAPping. It had also considered the 2012 Budget and made recommendations to Synod.
6. **Mtwara report.** The Lay Co-Chairman asked again if there were anyone on Synod who would join the Mtwara Committee; this was an important Deanery function at present unrepresented in Synod. Following the disappointment over the proposed visit from Mtwara (because of visa problems), the Committee intended to send a new invitation for 9 to 24 May 2012. the Archbishop of Canterbury has asked all Dioceses having problems with visas to inform him.

The Mtwara Committee has agreed to send £500 for food for the poorer people of Mtwara and the children in the kindergarten. Lent lunches will again be held and the Committee would be glad to hear from anyone willing to run one. The annual beetle drive will be arranged later.
7. **Good News and Announcements of Functions from Parishes.** Mr F Seabright reported on the good progress with training bell-ringers. New arrangements had been introduced and these had led to greater success and enthusiasm. Three were likely to go to Cradley, 1 to Ledbury and 1 to Bosbury.

Putley had introduced a parish communion in the Village Hall after badminton thus encouraging younger members. Yarkhill was to have a Flower Festival and the Bishop of Hereford was to attend the musical event In Praise of Harvest. Bosbury was to have Supper and Sillier Songs.

At Hereford Cathedral, there were to be Fireworks, Ordinations, and a Celebration of the completion of the restoration work.
8. **Deanery 5 year plan:**
 - i. Local training Needs and Young people; Open the Book was going very well. Much Marcle might soon introduce it there, and if so there would be six teams. The Lay Co-Chairman reported that he was in touch with John Masefield School about something analogous there, though the Head of RE was on sabbatical. The Secretary reported that the unspent money made available for the project would probably lapse at the end of 2012, though it would be

available for new projects. SBC would consider what needed to be retained.

ii. Communications; The Secretary reported that Mr Tony Copp had closed down the old website and transferred the enduring material to the new one. Mr F Seabright asked whether the website held financial material: there was some on there but probably not all. The Secretary undertook to look at the arrangements for putting it on. Meanwhile, the Lay Co-Chairman urged members of Synod to send material about activities (Good News and Announcement of Functions) directly to Mr Copp: There was some risk in that and members should make clear that they were acting on behalf of their parishes

iii. Social Activities. The Lay Co-Chairman reminded Synod of the booking of Ledbury Rugby Club for 26 May 2012. A group of volunteers was required to undertake the detailed planning and he hoped for names by the next Synod. Meanwhile, there was agreement that Roly Bain, the Clown, should be booked: the Archdeacon said that the Diocese may well fund his appearance. There was reluctance to use the event for fundraising.

9. **Agreed Minutes of Synod 28 July, and SBC 1 September and 3 August.** Noted.

10. **Future Pattern of Meetings.** The Secretary reported on the soundings taken after the last Synod on the possibilities for changing the pattern of meeting. As reflected in the Note before Synod, there was no consensus for change. Synod agreed to maintain the established pattern with the dates set out below.

11. **Dates of Future Meetings.**

Synod: Thursday 24th November (Storrige Village Hall) at 7.30 pm. **NB Change of Venue.** Major Items will be MAPPING and the Anglican Covenant, on which papers are being prepared.

2012: 22nd March, 26th July, 27th September and 22nd November.

Standing and Business Committee: Wednesday 2nd November at 5 pm. **2012:** 7th March, 4th July, 5th September and 7th November.

12. **Any other business.** The Rural Dean reported that The Archdeacon's Visitation to give their charge to Churchwardens would be on 30 May at Colwall.

The Meeting closed at 9.10 pm with prayers led by the Archdeacon.