

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 29th July, 2010,
at Village Hall, Bosbury

Attendance:

House of Clergy Rev'd Prebendary M.D.Vockins (Rural Dean), Rev'd M.Horton (Colwall), Rev'd H. Mayell (Ledbury), Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt (Ledbury).

House of Laity Mr I D S.Beer (Lay Co-Chairman in the Chair), Mr I Bailey (Cradley), Dr C Bainton (Ledbury), Mr M Brothers (Ledbury), Mrs E Clutterbuck (Bosbury), Mr M Hibbins (Yarkhill), Mr W Hopkinson (Secretary), Mr R Hunter (Putley), Mr D McKerracher (Mathon), Mr A Mence (Tarrington), Mrs H Morgan (Cradley), Mr C Myles (Ashperton) Mr G Probyn (Mathon), (Deanery Treasurer), Mrs M Roberts (Colwall), Mrs A Russell (Ashperton), Mrs E Toyer (Ledbury), Mr B Tremayne (Aylton), Mr N Walker (Mathon), Mr B Willder (Stretton Grandison).

Opening prayers were led by the Rural Dean

- 1. Welcome** The Rural Dean welcomed all present and the two visiting speakers. He expressed Synod's thanks to those who had prepared the coffee and teas.
- 2. Apologies for Absence** Mr M Allfrey (Storrige), Dr R Allsopp (Wellington Heath), Mrs V Avery (Tarrington), Mr D Barnett Roberts (Munsley), Mr R Beard (Colwall), Mrs C Blackaby (Ledbury), Mrs D Davies (Canon Frome), Rev'd P. Dunthorne (Ledbury), Mr M Greensmith (DAC), Mr M Johnson (Coddington), Mrs Lois Owen (Eastnor), Miss C Panter (Diocesan Synod), Mr B Pardoe (Putley), Mr F Seabright (Bosbury), Mr B Speakman (Wellington Heath), Mrs M Taylour (Colwall).

3. Presentations:

- i. The Rev'd Preb Sam Ashton spoke about the BibleLands charity and its work in Egypt, Lebanon and Israel/Palestine. He gave numerous examples of its projects and institutions designed to help children and the dispossessed and disadvantaged. Though Christian in its orientation and supporting and encouraging the indigenous Christian communities, it helps without discrimination Jews, Christians and Muslims. It works to counter fundamentalism by peacemaking and education. It raises and disburses some £2½ million pa. and needs the support of Churches in this country.
- ii. Mr R H Peers spoke about the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust. This gives contributions to help maintain or repair Christian buildings of all denominations in the county. It does not confine its support only to the historic or listed but will help when there is need with modern buildings. Its procedures are simple. To raise funding it welcomes individual subscriptions, however small; PCCs may also join. Parishes were encouraged to participate in the forthcoming "Ride and Stride"; those who did not wish to ride could sponsor those who did.

The Rural Dean thanked the Rev'd Preb Ashton and Mr Peers for their illuminating presentations which all had enjoyed.

4. Minutes of the Synod held on 25th March, 2010 were noted.

5. Matters arising: None.

6. Finance.

- i. Current year's progress: The Treasurer circulated figures showing that matters were generally satisfactory.

- ii. Budgeting for 2010: The Treasurer referred to the note he had circulated giving information on a number of matters confronting the Diocese. He had circulated to PCC Treasurers by e-mail the current draft of the Diocesan budget and would discuss with them, and it was hoped a Diocesan representative, in September the latest draft. Deanery Synod would then be able to consider it in before the Diocese took final decisions.

One Synod member suggested that the significant figure was the uplift of the draft budget over actual expenditure in 2009, rather than over the 2010 budget. It was also pointed out that the real key to the Diocese's financial problems was improved Stewardship: Hereford was at the bottom of the table of 43 dioceses for giving.

- iii. Financial report 2009: The Treasurer had circulated unexamined figures for 2009. There was one unresolved question but the figures undoubtedly showed the Deanery to be in sound state.

7. Standing Committee Minutes 3 March, 2010: Noted.

8. Diocesan Synod: The Rural Dean reported on the discussions on the motions from Bromyard Deanery and others calling for economy and financial restraint. The resolutions had been rejected by substantial majorities, with most of speakers stressing that the Church in the Diocese was not a congregational church but a wide, united body; that it was a mission church, reaching out to the wider community; and most shared a vision for extending this important work, not reducing it. He commented on the well-ordered way in which the discussions had been conducted. He also mentioned the report from General Synod on women bishops.

- 9. Bishop's Council:** The Secretary said that at its last meeting the Council had focused particularly on the motions from Deaneries on financial restraint and on budgetary issues. It had also looked at a revised paper on Vulnerable Adults which had gone forward and been approved by Synod. The paper was an improvement on the earlier version but would probably be overtaken by governmental decisions on safeguarding arrangements. The Council had received the report from the working group on 2015. It would consider that in depth at its September residential session.
- 10. Mtwara report:** Mrs Toyer reported that May's Beetle Drive was a great success, raising £339. It might well become an annual event. Three members of the Deanery committee attended the Diocesan Tanzanian Committee meeting in July. The two teachers from Ledbury had just left for Tanzania, with colleagues from Hereford and Worcester Diocese. The Bishop of Hereford and Prebendary Walter Gould were also to travel out to attend the centenary celebrations at Masasi Cathedral. A date will be arranged for later in 2010 to hear from the Ledbury teachers about their time at Lilunga School. The Rural Dean noted that it had sometimes been the practice for Harvest Festival or Christmas collections to be devoted to the Tanzanian link. Parishes might wish to consider that as a general practice.
- 11. Good News:** The Bishop of Hereford would conduct a service at Much Marcle on 21 November at the completion of major works there. This would in practice be a Deanery service and all would be welcome— Churches with choirs will be contacted by the organist of Much Marcle about the music involved. There would be a lunch there on 15 August at Caerswall Farm £12.50 a head - details from Rev Howard Mayell or Janet Chapman. The Putley Lunch had been a brilliant success and on 22 August there would be the Fete, and on 29th a Celtic Service.

Ashperton had had a most enjoyable songs of praise celebrating 45 years of service by the organist. At Colwall, the Dog Show had been a great success and raised about £1000. Meanwhile, having obtained their Faculty, work had started on the removal of pews and should be completed by Advent Sunday. Mathon had raised some £1900 from its Hog Roast. Ledbury had had a successful display of activities by all the groups connected with the Church.

Wellington Heath had a great time with Wallace and Gromit in their worship on the 11th July was to have its Summer Buffet on 14 August. Cradley would be serving Cream Teas on Sunday afternoons throughout August. Ashperton, Bosbury and Yarkhill had Fetes planned, and there will be an evening 'Supper and Silly Songs' at Bosbury on September 11th.

Stoke Edith had had its first baptism for many years. More generally, 26 September would be Back To Church Sunday with both Wellington Heath and Putley involved in the Diocesan sponsored encouragement of this. Agreement had been given to the launch of the Cider Church's Local Ministry Group.

12. Revision and Updating of Deanery's 5 Year Plan:

- i. Towards 2015: The Deanery had a working group which had met for the first time. It would be appropriate to return to this issue in the New Year after Bishop's Council had considered the matter.
- ii. Local Training Needs: The Rural Dean said that his earlier offer of assistance with training for Pastoral Visiting and Bereavement Visiting for parishes still stood. Also, see iv below.
- iii. Communications: There still seemed some difficulty in seeing Deanery material on the Diocesan Website and the Lay Co-Chairman would ask Mr Greensmith to examine this further, together with Mr Copp who

would attend the November SC. Mr Hunter advised Synod that match funding may be available for developing the Deanery website as part of the Diocesan site, as had been planned when it was updated last year.

- iv. Young people: There had been excellent progress with "Open the Book". Four teams were expected to operate from September, and more were in the offing. The recent training days had been very good and local training was also now possible.
- v. Social event: Timing and venue for **The Deanery Social, 2010** were now fixed (Colwall Village Hall on Friday 1st October, 7.30 pm) and a detailed programme was now being worked up. All would be welcome, all ages from across the entire Deanery.

13. Dates of forthcoming Synod Meetings:

- i. 23rd September, at Ledbury Chapter House
- ii. 25th November, at Colwall Ale House.

14. Any other business:

- a. Elections to General Synod were to be held this Autumn. The electorate for the House of Laity was, essentially, members of Deanery Synods. Nomination papers had been issued and the Secretary had a DVD on the subject available on application.
- b. The Deanery Directory was being revised. Copies should be available at the September synod. All were asked to help ensure that it was as accurate as possible. Thanks were expressed to James Barnes for undertaking this task once again.

