

LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee held on
7th July 2010 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), Mr.M.W.Brothers, Mr.G.W.Hopkinson (Secretary), Rev'd M.Horton, Mr G.Probyn (Treasurer), Mr.B.Speakman, Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt, Rev'd R.Ward.

1. **Welcome and opening prayers.** The Lay Co-Chairman welcomed all present and prayers were said by the Rural Dean.
2. **Apologies.** Mr.M.C.Greensmith.
3. **Minutes of the Standing Committee** held on 3 March were approved.
4. **Matters arising:** SC agreed that for the future minutes might be agreed out of committee and published before the next meeting.
5. **Deanery Synod Minutes of 25 March:** Noted.
6. **Finance.**
 - a. Treasurer's Report on current year: The table circulated showed a number of shortfalls but in most cases explanations had been given. Moreover, it was early after the quarter concerned and there were felt to be no serious grounds for anxiety at this stage.
 - b. Report on Resource Advisory Panel (RAP). The latest meeting of RAP had not provided much certainty about the likely budget figures for 2011. An increase of 3.91 had been mentioned but that might be an underestimate.

- c. It was generally felt that the Treasurers' Meeting on 17 May had been useful and should be repeated. A paper from the Cider and Hop parishes was being pursued by the Ledbury Benefice.
- d. . It was agreed that there would be another Treasurers' meeting as soon as the likely outlines of the 2011 budget became clear.
- e. DFAG: The Lay C0-Chairman reported the resignation of Mr D Hurle. SC expressed their appreciation of his services and hoped that he would be able to contribute in a future capacity. No meeting of DFAG seemed necessary in the immediate future.
- f. Concern was expressed that the sense of Stewardship should be kept alive. The diocese was expected to return to the issue in the Autumn. Meanwhile it was agreed that the Deanery would endeavour to dedicate a future Synod meeting to Stewardship and, with this in mind, the Rural Dean would look at practice in Worcester and Gloucester dioceses.

7. **Good News:** Colwall had at long last obtained a faculty to reorganise its interior. Bosbury and Tarrington were seeking faculties.. Shoots of life were springing up in Stoke Edith and Canon Frome. The Flower Festival at Ledbury had been a great success and Cradley had had a successful joint effort with the Village Hall.

8. **Deanery 5 Year Plan:** The current state of play is summarised below:

- a. Towards 2015: The Rev'd Prebendary S Strutt would chair a meeting on 19 July for the Deanery. Bishop's Council would take a report from the Diocesan group on 8 July and the Secretary would keep S. Strutt informed. The Secretary commented that the report seemed very good.
- b. Training and Children and Young Persons: The Rural Dean reported on a good meeting on 6 July on "Open the Book". Eastnor, Cradley, Bosbury and Ashperton

would be opening on this in the Deanery. The trainers would return in January.

- c. **Communications:** It was agreed to invite Mr T Copp to the next meeting of the SCⁱ.
- d. **Social Event:** The Poetry and Prose event will take place at the Colwall Village hall on Friday 1st October. In addition to the invited performers approaches had been made to schools about performances of music and poetry. Responses had so far been slow but there were also one or two encouraging signs.

9. Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod: The Secretary reported that there was to be a meeting of BC the following day and Diocesan Synod the following week. As well as the paper on 2015, there was a proposal for a Budget Review Group. Financial seemed likely to consume a fair amount of time at both meetings. The diocese would find itself under considerable pressure in the coming year.

10. Organisation of next Synod Meeting: The Rural Dean proposed that the Rev'd Preb Sam Ashton, a member of Synod until his recent retirement, be invited to the next Synod to speak on the work of BibleLands, a Christian charity working in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, to speak after the representative of the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust. SC agreed.

11. Deanery Synod Meetings: There was a difficulty over the next SC date. After discussion that was moved to Thursday 2 September. The 2010 Synod meetings were confirmed as -

- a. 29th July, at the Parish Hall, Bosbury
- b. 23rd September, at Ledbury Chapter House
- c. 25th November, at Colwall Ale House.

12. Any Other business: None

ⁱ He will attend the November SC, being unavailable for the earlier one.