

## LEDBURY DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 24th March, 2011, at The Village Hall, Much Marcle

### **Attendance:**

**House of Clergy** Rev'd Prebendary M.D.Vockins, Rev'd P. Dunthorne (Ledbury), Rev'd F Iliffe (Ledbury), Rev'd H. Mayell (Ledbury), Rev'd Prebendary S.Strutt (Ledbury), Rev'd R Ward (CMS).

**House of Laity** Mr I Beer (Lay Co-Chairman), in the Chair, Mr M Allfrey (Storrige), Dr R Allsopp (Wellington Heath Mrs E Clutterbuck (Bosbury), Mrs D Davies (Canon Frome), Mr W Hopkinson (Secretary), Mr A Mence (Tarrington), Mr C Myles (Ashperton). Mr G Probyn (Mathon), (Deanery Treasurer), Miss C Panter (Diocesan Synod), Mrs A Russell (Ashperton), Mr B Speakman (Wellington Heath), Mrs E Toyer (Ledbury), Mrs S Tyrrell (Putley).

**Apologies for Absence** Mrs V Avery (Tarrington), Mr R Beard (Colwall), Mr I Bailey (Cradley), Dr C Bainton (Ledbury), , Mr M Brothers (Ledbury), Mr M Greensmith (DAC), Rev'd M Horton (Colwall), Mr R Hunter (Putley), Mr D McKerracher (Mathon), Mr B Pardoe (Putley), Mrs M Roberts (Colwall), Rev'd J Schofield (Ledbury), Rev'd N Seabright (Ledbury), Mrs M Taylour (Colwall), Mr N Walker (Mathon).

**Opening Worship** was led by a team from the Cider parishes, under the Rev'd H. Mayell.

1. **Welcome** The Rural Dean welcomed the meeting and expressed Synod's thanks to Much Marcle for their very generous hospitality.
2. Rev'd C Pascoe, Diocesan Lay Development Officer gave a presentation on Mission Action Planning. This was fundamental to the growth and development of the Church to 2015 and beyond. The presentation was accompanied by Powerpoint slides and a number of notes and paper. The heart of Mission Planning is a five stage process that involves reviewing (and celebrating) progress; considering the problems and issues; reflecting on what is important to God; making His priorities ours; planning for action to give effect to that; and then on again to review.

She felt that Ledbury Deanery was very well advanced in all this (indeed ahead of other Deaneries) because of its Five Year Plans and its Working Group on 2015 onward. The vital thing was now to get parishes to pick up

the techniques and apply them, bearing in mind the Five Marks of Mission.

The presentation was very well received; all who heard it felt that they had received an important message. The new Deanery Synod would work to apply it from July. The Rural Dean and Lay Co-Chairman would be writing to parishes to invite them to renew their five-year plans by the autumn, in the context of 2015 Onwards and using Mission Action Planning as a most helpful tool. The Rural Dean expressed the Deanery's sincere thanks for the talk and the work that had gone into preparing it.

**3. Minutes of the Synod** held on 25 November 2010 were noted.

**4. Matters arising:**

- i. Women Bishops Item - 7i The Motion proposed by SC in support of Women Bishops was seconded by the Rev'd H Mayell and approved unanimously;
- ii. Stewardship Item - 7 ii The Rural Dean reported that a possible candidate for liaison with the Diocesan team had been identified; the new Synod would be able to consider in July. The lay Co-Chairman said that it was an important target for the Deanery to become a Stewardship Deanery ie every parish adopt Stewardship. Some parishes were as yet unsighted; help was available and parishes would be encouraged to seek it.
- iii. Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults - Item 7iii The Secretary reminded Synod of the motion passed at their last meeting. Since then the Government had brought forward a White Paper proposing radical simplification of the underlying national requirements. He had asked the Diocese about the detail of the Government proposals and the likely timescale of change but had had no reply so far. Synod took note.

**5. Finance:**

- i. Outturn 2010 - The Treasurer reported that the situation was fairly good. Some 98% of the parish share had come in. Nevertheless, there was a shortfall of some £4,000 that had had to be met from Deanery reserves, making a significant impact upon them.
- ii. Current Year's Progress - The Treasurer was reasonably satisfied with progress: with some of the first quarter still to run 95% of the parish share was in. Concern was expressed that a situation requiring a significant call on Deanery reserves should not be

allowed to arise; a view agreed by the Lay Co-Chairman who informed Synod that he was aware that within Benefices individual Parishes were being approached, encouragement given and help offered, to make certain that all met their share in the future, as well as catching up on the past. We could not allow Synod to regress to years gone by when the reserve was turned into a debt through parishes not meeting their share.

6. **Standing Committee Minutes of 2 March, 2011** were noted.
  
7. **Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council:** The Secretary reported that there had been three significant matters at the March Diocesan Synod: an excellent Presidential address on the Church and Young People; women bishops; the Anglican Covenant. The Presidential address had been concerned with young adults rather than children and followed a meeting of a number of bishops with representatives of those people. Many already felt attraction to and pride in the church. They were not the Church of the future, but the Church of the present. Deanery Synod agreed that contacts with John Masefield high school should be followed up.

On women bishops Diocesan Synod had heard a further presentation by the Rev'd Preb K Garlick; there had not actually been a debate and it was felt that a debate should take place before Diocesan Synod voted. That might prove challenging given the relatively short time available for the next Diocesan Synod.

The intention had been that Diocesan Synod would vote on the Anglican Covenant at its March meeting. However, some strong reservations had been expressed and a vote was deferred. In response to a question on whether the Deanery should vote on this the Rural Dean said Deaneries were invited to consider the matter but did not have to. He personally thought that it might be very difficult to get the material into a form on which Deanery synod could have a meaningful discussion. However, he would explore that further.

As regards Bishop's Council, the Secretary reported that the first report on Diocesan Communications has been approved; the second should be completed by Easter, with work on the website to follow that.

The Lay Co-Chairman expressed thanks to the Secretary for his work with the Diocese.

8. **Mtwara report:** Mrs Toyer said that Mrs E Athanasio Pangisa and J J Kandeo, teachers, were to visit the Deanery in September. Churches might consider inviting them to visit; visits to gardens, teas, drives in the country would all be welcome.

On 19 March a Masai/Newala Conference was held at Tupsley Church; Bishop Oscar Mnung'a and his wife Agnes were present. They attended morning service in Ledbury the following day, and Cradley for Evensong and tea. They also visited Ledbury Primary School which went very well, and later Cradley Primary School and Ashperton

Bishop Oscar emphasized the importance of the Church in all walks of life. In Newala Diocese, 70% of the population is Muslim whilst the Church lacks financial resources, equipment, trained staff and transport.

Hereford diocese is working with the Council for World Partnership and Development on a project to establish the use of permaculture in Tanzania. Two teachers from Mtwara will be visiting Ledbury Primary school in May and two are going from there to Mtwara in July, on British Council funding. On 4 and 13 April there will be Deanery Lent lunches for Mtwara and on Friday 6 May there will be a Beetle Drive at Wellington Heath Memorial Hall

The Lay Co-Chairman expressed very warm thanks to Mrs Toyer for her work over the years on Mtwara and in the Synod. This was warmly endorsed. He expressed thanks too for all who had served over the last three years and who would not be taking part in the new Synod. For the future, it was important that there should be a direct connection between Synod and the Mtwara Committee. If no member of that Committee was in the new Synod, then Synod should consider co-opting a member; alternatively the Committee might co-opt a member of Synod. This should be considered in July at the first meeting of Synod.

9. **Good News:** In Bosbury a young woman had started a youth choir, and there was great enthusiasm for that. On 9 April Wellington Heath was staging a Murder and Mystery event. CMS were organizing a three village festival on the last weekend in June and there would be a Mystery Play in Cradley Church. Cradley were also starting a monthly lay-led service for young people from Easter Day. Stretton Grandison were having an exhibition of wedding and baptism costume on 21-22 May, and there would be a birthday celebration in Ayleton Barn on 29 April for those born on that day. Canon Frome would be holding a ceilidh in mid June.

It was agreed for the future that Good News items should be submitted direct to the webmaster to go on to the Deanery Website.

#### **10. Revision and Updating of Deanery's 5 Year Plan:**

- i. Towards 2015: Mr J Barnes said that the Deanery Working Group that had prepared the report on 2015 Onwards had prepared a Powerpoint presentation that they would give to Synod in July. They would bring together the Five Marks of mission, Stewardship (focusing on Gifts and Talents). The Synod supported the idea that, to give deaneries and parishes the clearest possible incentive, the Diocese should provide an annual forecast of Clergy numbers.
- ii. Local Training Needs: Training for Open the Book was now given on a termly basis.
- iii. Communications: It was vital that Synod representatives made effective reports to their parishes. It was suggested that substitutes might be allowed when a member could not attend. After a brief exchange it was agreed that parishes should ensure that when their representative could not attend an observer be sent along who could (by invitation) speak for the parish and report back on the Synod meeting.
- iv. Social event: No current plans.

#### **11. The New Synod and Execution of Business before its Meeting:** Synod

considered a Note by the Secretary that sought agreement on three matters:

- i. that the present officers and SC may act until 28 July;
- ii. That requests for nominations for election of officers and SC be issued for return by 18 July. Synod noted that guidance would be sought from Incumbents and Team Vicars as they would know who had been elected as Synod representatives in each parish and might be able to discern who would be prepared to serve on SC if elected;
- iii. That the structure of SBC, reflecting the arrangements agreed in 2005, be 4 Officers; 3 incumbents; 5 other representatives of which 2 may be clerical to give a total not exceeding 12, with an equal balance of lay-clerical if achievable and with regard being had, so far as practicable, to a balance of representation between groups and benefices.

All were agreed, nem. con.

**12. Dates of forthcoming Synod Meetings:**

**Synod:** Thursday evenings on : 24<sup>th</sup> March (Much Marcle Village Hall); 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).

**Standing Committee:** Wednesday afternoons on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 6<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

It was suggested that a meeting at Cradley in November might be inappropriate because of the rough approach. The Rev'd R Ward undertook to consider and consult with the Secretary.

**13. Any other business:**

- i. There would be a confirmation at Putley on 8 May with a training session on 16 April;
- ii. Mr J Barnes reminded Synod that a new Directory would be required following the elections. He would be going out to parishes in July asking for verification of information.