

READING DEANERY SYNOD

**Minutes of the 1st meeting of the 2017 - 2020 Synod.
Held at St Barnabas Church, Emmer Green RG4 8LN
on Thursday 8th June 2017 at 20.00 hours**

Present:

Clergy		Lay members	
The Revd Dr Graeme Fancourt (chair)	Mr Peter Jeal (Chair)	Mrs Elizabeth Hawkness- Smith	Mr Roger Moore
The Revd Derek Chandler	Mr Eric Anderson	Dr Lee Hawkness Smith	Dr Christopher Mott
The Revd Richard Christopher	Mr Tony Bartlett	Mr Mark Hinckley	Mrs Sue Mott
The Revd Penny Cuthbert	Mr Ian Bate	Mrs Hilary Jakeman	Mrs Tanya Newell
The Revd Dr Peter Day	Mr Ron Best	Mr Steve Jenkins	Mrs Marian Pitman
The Revd Sarah Eden-Junes	Mr Robert Bryce	Mrs Joan Jenks	Mr Arfon Rees
The Revd Nick Jackson	Mr Mark Burton	Mrs Debbie Johnson Wait	Mrs Anne Soley
The Revd Nigel Jones	Mr Kevin Colyer	Dr Alison Johnston	Mr Peter Stratton
The Revd Ben Krautzer	Mrs Rosemary Cooper	Dr John Ledger	Mr Gordon Summers
The Revd Jane Lewis	Mr Alan Cross	Mrs Jean Leslie	Miss Joan Walker
The Revd David Little	Mr Simon Cuthbert	Mrs Margaret Lowe	Mr Simon Walker
The Revd Elizabeth Ratcliffe	Mrs Jane Fulford	Mrs Jane Masson	Dr Elaine Watts
The Revd Mike Smith	Mrs Sue Gash	Mrs Margaret Mayer	Mr Bill Watts
The Revd Judith Sumner	Mr John Goddard	Mrs Lydia Messling	Mr Anthony Wilson
	Mr Trevor Greaves	Prof John Missenden	Mr Tony White
	14 Mr Leslie Green	Mrs Samantha Moore	

NSM – PTO

The Revd Francis Jakeman

The Revd Chris Leslie

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Apologies received from

Clergy		Lay members	
The Revd Adam Carlill	The Revd John Rogers	Mrs Jenny Bryce	Mr Clive Tillin
The Revd Philip Hobday	The Revd Canon Chris Russell	Mr Brian Day	Mrs Elaine Spratling
The Revd Hannah Hobday	The Revd Neil Warwick	Mrs Mary Day	Mr Nicholas White
The Revd Vernon Orr	The Revd Jo Williams	Mr Robert Dimmick	Mr Adam Wingrove
The Revd Stephen Pullin	The Revd Paul Willis	Miss A Peyton	Mrs Hilary Wynn
		Mr Ralph Taylor	

NSM / PTO

The Revd Tony Coulson
The Revd Stephen Cousins
The Revd Margaret
Dimmick

Observer: Mr Richard Cunningham (Church warden at St Barnabas).

1. Welcome:

The Revd Graeme Fancourt welcomed everyone to the 1st Meeting of the newly formed 2017 – 2020 Deanery Synod and expressed gratitude to St Barnabas for hosting the meeting.

2. Opening Worship:

The Revd Derek Chandler pointed out fire exits ahead of leading the worship which was based on the theme of Pentecost – the birthday of the church.

The reading was taken from Acts 2¹⁻²¹ and the Covenant prayer taken from the Methodist Annual Covenant service in which we committed ourselves to service with the help and support of God and each other.

The Revd Graeme Fancourt closed the worship time in prayer.

3. Area dean's Position:

The Revd Graeme Fancourt informed the meeting that Mr Richard Cunningham was at Synod as an observer ahead of explaining that the Revd Stephen Pullin (previous Area Dean) had now taken the position of Assistant Archdeacon of Berkshire, working with the Archdeacon, the Venerable Olivia Graham. This was a long awaited position in the light of the size of Berkshire, especially when compared with much smaller Archdeaconries who had up to three assistant Archdeacons. Graeme, as one of the Associate Area Dean's at the time, had been appointed to the part time position, leaving St Luke and St Bartholomew (his parish) with a part-time priest. The other Associate Area Dean, the Revd Neil Warwick, was continuing in post, although currently on a Sabbatical until September.

4. Good News Story:

Sam Moore, of Beech Hill Church, gave an excellent presentation on how from an idea six years ago through many negotiations over a two year period a shop was opened in the Butterfield designed church. The opening received much media coverage.

Ownership is by members who paid £25 per share and the shop is run by two part-time managers and 20 volunteers, one of whom is blind and another partially sighted. The shop is positioned in the North Aisle, an area used for storage, now housing specially designed cupboards which can be completely closed off when the shop is closed. The renovation project included a barn behind the church to include toilet facilities and newly laid paths. The shop is open six days a week from 08.30 through to 18.00 hours and is well used by villagers and people from surrounding areas. As far as possible local produce is sold, thus ensuring its freshness and reducing the detrimental effects on the environment by travelling less miles. The grounds around the church are kept in good order by local sheep owned and loaned by a young farmer who started out with two sheep when he was 20 years old and now has sixty five of them.

Events in the church are themed to the church calendar and seasonal produce as far as is possible, a recent animal service was linked with pet grooming at the shop and well as the promotion of pet products.

A craft group meets at the church, and has provided twiddle muffs for those with dementia and clothes for premature babies, also courses such as a Lent course. A tea room provides refreshments, cream teas a specialty and also provides lunches for special groups such as Thrive (a gardening charity for people with disabilities) when they hold training days.

The shop is considered to be in the top twelve in country of its kind and has enabled the church to become the centre of village life offering not only a peaceful shopping experience but also affording time of quiet and prayer, opportunity to talk to others. The project has also been recognized as providing experience for those undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Revd Fancourt thanked Sam for a fantastic and inspiring story.

5. Synod:

- a) What it means to me**
- b) What it means to be a Synod member**
- c) Where are we now**
- d) What are the plans for this triennium**

Appendices 1 and 2 as circulated with the agenda had covered these areas but as further explanation the Revd Graeme Fancourt detailed that the Deanery is all church members not just the elected representatives from churches who were the ones overseeing the governance. Synod was intended to serve churches in mission and ministry, helping each to look beyond its own boundaries and working towards a shared mission. Representatives were charged with reporting to their Parochial church councils of the work of Synod and each of its Committees.

Each representative had opportunity to serve in ways to implement the Reading Deanery Mission Action Plan in the three areas of work a) leadership and development both Clergy and Lay, but beginning with the clergy; b) participation in church community beginning with the inspection of churches which was to take the format of the regulatory inspection of resources and records but also to ascertain the needs of the particular parish in its mission to see where the Deanery can offer help and support; c) resources and how we can share these, not only in respect of finances as in the Parish Share but the imaginative ideas and bringing these to fruition.

He went on to clarify how each person in an elected position, be it Lay chair, or a committee member can offer a positive approach, inspire and assist parishes to be involved.

Two questions were then posed for Synod members to discuss in their small groups:

1. In three years time what do you hope to see in Reading because of the work of this Synod?
2. What can you do to see that the hope becomes a reality?

Members wrote responses on post-it notes which were then put on boards at the front ahead of adjourning for 6. **a refreshment break** and opportunity to talk with each other about standing for election.

The results taken from the post-it notes are:

Question 1	Question 2
Age related mission (20 – 40 years)	Be champions in our own churches
A greater knowledge of Christ in the general population	Be optimistic
Better communications between Deanery churches and community of Faith in Reading	Better contact with Synod and churches
Churches that share resources	Bring church into community, cafes, shops
Church being more of a partner in the community, not necessarily doing ‘religious’ stuff but just being a good neighbour	Commit to pray, discern from scripture, see God’s work, share and witness
Church first place to go if you have a problem, not the last	Communicate with PCC (Parochial Church Council)
Churches connected in ‘clusters’ (mutual support leaders, joint worship)	Encourage cooperation with other churches in our area
Continue the growing sense of unity	Engaging with partners to use gifts in church – particularly to work with youth e.g. courses of life skills on vocational qualifications
Deanery-wide news being shared e.g.by twitter or a facebook group	Ecumenical working – e.g. with non-conformist churches – inviting non-Anglican participation in sharing stories at Synod
Deanery website that shares good news stories, resources, needs and offers of support	Focus on what we do well Share resources across the Deanery
Doing what we do even better	Fully integrated going out!
Everybody should be doing something	Get involved! (get off your backside!)
Every church should be doing something new	I can do catering for more parties
Each church have MAP (Mission Action Plan) with	Keep working at unity

regard to the Deanery MAP	Be determined to keep loving in spite of difference
Greater exchange of ideas x interconnections via personal statement; webpages; communications etc	Make sure the things in the action plan get done, by contributing to doing them
Greater integration with RCN (Reading Council of Churches) / wider Christian witness	New residents' visitors and welcome pack
Helping the community do better	Offer support in communication techniques
Hope to see the Great Get Together in June still flourishing with the support of the churches in Reading	Pray for other churches Meet each other, go to each other's churches! Get to know each other
In being missional you should encourage diversity of action	Sharing e.g. youth workers between churches
Involvement of e.g. homeless people in the running of our churches – not just receiving from us, but partnering with us in our work	Visit other churches
Less insularity + more communication between congregations not just clergy	Work with each other
Looking and going out to listen+ befriend	
Noticeboard for sharing: practical; spiritual; creativity	
Pooling resources e.g. gatherings, input training at Deanery level for e.g. church officers	
Pooling resources, synergy between churches. Action learning sets sharing of ideas / widening out activities	
Reaching out to communities – the wider approach engaging all aspects	
Sharing of resources	
Sharing expertise across Deanery (training ??, leadership happiness whatever)	
Sharing experience and knowledge	
Update Deanery website. Send out notices to all churches	
Who do we encourage to participate in governance: young people disenfranchised people at Synod level and church level	

7. Election of Officers:

i) **Lay Chair:** The Revd Graeme Fancourt called Mr Peter Jeal forward as Peter had held the position of Lay Chair for twelve years and was now standing down. Peter was thanked for all that he had done over the years, being liked to Atlas in bearing the weight of Synodical affairs. Peter responded with having some regret at standing down but felt that the time was right as Synod moved into new and exciting territory which he expected to also be a rewarding time. A small presentation was made to Peter.

The Revd Graeme Fancourt then asked for volunteers to take over the role. Mr Mark Hinckley and Dr Alison Johnston came forward. They were each given thirty seconds to say why they felt called to the position.

After Mark and Alison left the room, voting by a show of hands gave the majority of votes to Mr Mark Hinckley who was therefore duly elected.

ii) **Assistant Lay Chair:** The Revd Fancourt then asked Dr Alison Johnston if she would be interested in standing as the Assistant Lay chair to which she responded in the affirmative. There being no other candidates responding to a call to come forward Synod approved the election of Alison to the position.

iii) **Secretary:** The Revd Fancourt called for volunteers for this position to come forward, as Miss Joan Walker had signified her intention to stand down. With no-one responding to the call Miss Joan Walker agreed that she would continue for a further year which was approved by the Synod.

iv) **Assistant Secretary:** The Revd Fancourt reminded Synod that this position was previously a Clergy position if the Secretary was a Lay person, although no longer the case it was a tradition that this Synod wished to continue. No clergy present volunteered but the Revd Hannah Hobday had signified her willingness to continue in this position by email ahead of the meeting and through the Deanery Synod representatives from Earley St Peter Church. Synod approved that the Revd Hannah Hobday be elected..

v) **Treasurer:** Mr Mark Burton was willing to continue in this position and there being no other volunteers Mr Mark Burton was duly elected.

vi) **Standing Committee members:** The Revd Fancourt reminded Synod that two clergy members and two lay members were required for this committee to work with the officers. The Revd Mike Smith volunteered to fill a clergy position and Professor John Missenden volunteered as a lay representative. There being no other volunteers or nominations they were duly elected, leaving one vacancy in each of the clergy and Lay categories.

vii) **NSM/PTO voting members at Synod:** The Revds Margaret Dimmick and Francis Jakeman had been duly nominated and seconded, with no other names being submitted they were duly elected, leaving one vacancy in this category.

viii) **Mission and Pastoral Committee:**

The Following areas of the Deanery as developed in 2014 were used as suggested in appendix 2 attached to the agenda:

1	2	3	4	5
East Reading	West Reading	South Reading	North Reading	
St John and St Stephen	St Catherine of Sienna	Beech Hill St Mary	Caversham Thameside	NSM's OLM's and Retired Clergy with Permission to Officiate
St James	Tilehurst St Michael	Shinfield St Mary	Caversham St Andrew	
Emmanuel	St Matthew	Spencers Wood St Michael and All Angels	Emmer Green St Barnabas	
Earley Trinity	St Mark & All Saints	Swallowfield All Saints	Caversham Park	
Earley St Nicolas	St George	St Agnes with St Paul and St Barnabas	Greyfriars	
Earley St Peter	St Mary Magdalen	St Giles	St Mary, Minster	
Christ Church	Holy Trinity		St Laurence.	
St Luke with St Bartholomew;				
St John Woodley				

- (one Clergy member and one Lay member from groups 1 – 4 and one representative from group 5)

Synod met in the above groupings and the following were elected:

Group 1 East Reading: – Clergy member - the Revd Peter Day;. Lay member – Mrs Marion Pitman
Group 2 West Reading:- Clergy member – vacant; . Lay member – Mrs Elizabeth Hawkness-Smith
Group 3 South Reading; – Clergy member – vacant; Lay member – Mrs Sue Mott
Group 4 North Reading:- Clergy member – the Revd Mike Smith;. Lay member – Mr Steve Jenkins
Group 5 NSM, PTO Clergy: vacant

viii) **Parish Share Committee:**

Standing Committee had advised to defer this election until the July Synod meeting to give new members of Synod a chance to get to know some of their colleagues

8. Administration

a) **Minutes of the last Synod held on 9th February** - these were approved by members present at this meeting. A request for these to be circulated to new members of Synod was made and Joan Walker agreed to re-circulate.

b) **Matters arising** – none

c) **Deanery Notices** – the Revd Fancourt highlighted the forthcoming visit of Bishop Steven on Tuesday 13th February when all are welcome to meet the Bishop at St Laurence Church at 19.30 when there will be a question and answer session and cake sharing.

e) **meeting dates for 2017** , these are planned as advised on the agenda for Wednesday 5th July at St Bartholomew's church RG1 3QA; Tuesday 10 October was confirmed and Thursday 23rd November.

9. Any Other Business – none had been notified.

10. Closing prayer and depart:

Mr Peter Jeal led the meeting in its closing prayer as the meeting concluded at 21.53.

Signed
(chair)

Date