

RICKMANSWORTH DEANERY SYNOD: *'We are the body of Christ'*

SYNOD OFFICERS

Rural Dean:	Revd Canon Gavin Collins, Christ Church Vicarage, The Common, Chorleywood WD3 5SG	01923 282149
Lay Chair:	Duncan Kerr, Lavender Lodge, Nightingales Lane, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4SR	01494 763481
Treasurer:	Sally Morgan, Stockers House, Stockers Farm Rd, Rickmansworth WD3 1NZ	01923 773922
Secretary:	Alex Twells, 12 Greenbury Close, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth WD3 5QT	01923 448167

Minutes of the synod in St Paul's, Chipperfield at 8.00pm on Monday 14th June 2010

This month is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Deanery of Rickmansworth on 1st June 1970

Members of the House of Clergy (14 current members)

Present (6): Gavin Collins (Rural Dean), Rachel Jenkinson, Jim Stevens, Deborah Snowball, David Baverstock, Charles Parry.

Apologies (5): David White, Tim Marshall, Miriam Muga, Mary Kingsley, Robert Riley-Bralea

Members of the House of Laity (34 current members)

Present (18): Duncan Kerr (Lay Chair), Allan Brown, John Stickland, Phil Waine, John Guy, Audrey Timberlake, John Galloway, David Williams, Margaret Roberts, Anne Baron, David Halden, Terence Russoff, Bill Seddon, John Rhodes, Julie Shepherd, Alan Wills, John Parsons, Alex Twells (Secretary).

Apologies (11): Bernard Bell, Pauline Brown, Michael Hart, Sue Hillier, Sally Morgan (Treasurer). David Nobbs, Norman Pearce, Jeannie Poulton, Jean Scott, Jo Squire, Nick Vale,

Others

Present (3): Ann Dorrett (Sarratt), Philip Lovegrove (General Synod link), David Nye (DBF Chairman),

Item 1 Welcome, apologies, and opening prayers

Duncan welcomed everyone, thanked St Paul's for the hospitality, and opened with a reading from Psalm 91 and prayers, including one for Tim Marshall, who is seriously ill. Duncan had hoped to introduce Canon David White, the new vicar of St Andrew's, but sadly, David had been called away at the last minute to visit his sick mother.

Item 2. Minutes of deanery synods on 8th October 2009 (distributed on 14th October) and 2nd February 2010 (distributed on 4th February)

These were approved and signed as true records.

Item 3. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

Item 4. Any other business

a. Allan Brown of Bovington announced that Friday 25th June would be a Day of Prayer for Tim and St Lawrence. It would not be an organised day - although St Lawrence would be open - and people were invited to devote any length of time between 8am and 8pm to private prayer. Canon Robin Brown had been appointed interim minister, serving about 1-2 days per week.

b. Philip Lovegrove, the deanery's link with General Synod, announced that he would be leaving the General Synod in July, and six lay people from the diocese would be elected in September by deanery synod members to the new (9th) General Synod, 2010-2015. Philip has served since the 1960s (when the Church Assembly was in being, prior to synodical government) and he was warmly thanked for his long service.

c. Deborah Snowball and Rachel Jenkinson reported on *Holy Ground: Encountering God through a Retreat in Daily Life*, a week of personal prayer from 16-23 May. Seven prayer guides took 26 people individually through giving time to God and waiting on him to respond. It was a beneficial experience to all and it was hoped to repeat it in 2011. If this were the case, Deborah assured synod that planning would begin in late summer, giving people sufficient notice.

d. Gavin announced that, following the resignation of Nicholas Pnematicatos in February, the formal process of selecting his successor at Mill End was beginning. He thanked Canon Charles Parry for his help in the parish.

e. Alex announced that the diocese had requested the deanery to produce another *Deanery Review*, culminating in a presentation to the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee on 7th July 2011. Parishes would be asked to contribute to its preparation.

Item 5. Talk by David Nye, Chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance

David thanked synod for inviting him to speak, and he presented with great clarity the Diocesan Budget for 2010.

He described all the essential components, but the main facts to which he brought synod's attention were:

- 87% of the total expenditure of £13M was on parochial ministry.
- 84% of the total income of £13M came from the Parish Share.
- Nothing is paid to dioceses by the Church Commissioners.
- There were 238 incumbents and curates, 82 non-stipendiary ministers, and 199 Readers.
- The average cost of a stipendiary priest was £47,000.
- Reserves amounted to £1M, enough to maintain the diocese for only one month.
- The Parish Shares Scheme divided almost equally between Stipend Contribution and Ministry Support Contribution.
- The stipend contribution increased by 5.45% between 2009 and 2010.
- Actual stipends increased by 1.29%.
- St Albans was 31st of 42 dioceses, its people giving 2.9% of their income, compared with the national average of 3.4%
- The Parish Share requested was 56% of total parish giving;
- 94% of the Parish Share requested was paid.
- Clergy pensions as a proportion of parish contributions were 45%, compared with 21.9% ten years ago. The rate of increase was rising steadily.
- From 2011, the clergy retirement age would be 68 (graduated), with a full pension after 43 years' service.

During his presentation, David fielded half a dozen probing questions.

He reported that this year, the parishes' Parish Share payments overall had noticeably slowed down, and currently were about one month behind, a worrying situation. Ideally, he would like parishes to pay by direct debit. In conclusion, David announced that, this autumn, Geoff Fletcher (Diocesan Stewardship Development Officer) would be visiting joint meetings of deaneries to help parishes manage their finances, develop new methods of resourcing, assess materials available for stewardship initiatives, and introduce some new materials. See Item 6 below.

Duncan thanked David for his presentation, adding that the facts he outlined had provided plenty of food for thought.

Item 6. Dates of next deanery event and next synod

Synod: 7.30 for 8.00pm, Thursday 21st October (St Andrew's) - NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM 18th October.

This will be an OPEN meeting.

Event: There will be a joint meeting with a neighbouring deanery this autumn (date and venue tba). See Item 5.

Gavin closed the synod with the Grace at 9.45pm.

Distribution: All synod members, The Ven Jonathan Smith, Jim May, Philip Lovegrove (General Synod link), Chris Davey (Diocese link), Margaret Millar (Methodist link)