

**MINUTES OF THE 149th MEETING OF THE WANTAGE DEANERY SYNOD HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014 IN ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, GROVE AT 7:30PM**

Attendance and Apologies: See Attachment 1.

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening Prayer</b>
	Hugh R (HR) thanked Grove Parish Church for hosting the meeting. Revd John D (JD) opened the meeting in prayer. Canon John S (JS) prayed for the victims of the recent accident at Lodge Hill.
<b>2</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b>
	The minutes of the previous meeting on 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2014 were unanimously accepted.
<b>3</b>	<b>Benefice Updates</b>
	<p><b>Ridgeway</b>  Revd Leonora Hill (LH) mentioned their Benefice choir which is singing at the Advent carol service. On Sunday they start a new Lectionary and study groups that will follow the bible readings, commentary and questions from Brian McLaren's book, 'We Make the Way By Walking'. They have a number of fabric projects in progress, involving roof and path renovations, major restoration and the installation of a kitchenette and toilet. Due to the dedication and commitment of a number of people grant applications have been successful and the generosity of individuals and communities has been amazing.</p> <p><b>Vale</b>  At East Challow they had had a service of memories (a service of remembrance for the bereaved). It was a wonderful service and very well attended, and involved making a Prayer Tree. There was also for the first time a public service of remembrance at the Lych Gate.</p> <p>Brian S (BS) mentioned that Denchworth Parish Church has just had the outside repointed. Also, the porch has now had the old plaster removed leaving some beautiful bare stone. They now are considering putting in a seat there.</p> <p><b>Wantage</b>  JS described how in August they had gathered at the war memorial for an hour's vigil. JS had read from a memoir from Dr Squires who was a Cavalry man in the first world war. On Remembrance day they processed outside after the service at which there were over 1,000 people present, with later on over 600 in the church. They are expecting perhaps 500 people</p>

	<p>for the Carol Service - stressful but exciting times! Developments at Charlton are stalled with the DAC. Archdeacon Judy has convened a meeting to resolve the deadlock; she is generally supportive.</p> <p><b>Wantage Downs</b> Wantage Downs has instigated the Wassail project, distributing gifts to people in the villages. This year they are doing it as an ecumenical activity with St Mary's, building on the very successful Wenceslas project of 2013. They had an ecumenical gathering at the war memorial.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Youth Worker Update</b>
	<p>HR received a communication from Cathy S from the Vale Council, on 5 November which said that they are due to secure 50% funding for a Youth worker. If there is no extra funding it could be just a part time post. However it is conditional on the Section 106 being agreed, and it would be available at the 500<sup>th</sup> dwelling being occupied; this is expected to probably be in 2018, and not before 2017. BS noted that as group scout chairman, he was very keen to work together with the Deanery and other parties as the plans coalesce.</p> <p><b>Action</b> : HR and BS to work on coalescing plans.</p> <p>HR had talked to the diocese about getting sufficient funding to make the post full time. There are many potential pots of funding from grant-making organisations. Bishop Colin has been very supportive and suggested yet further possibilities</p> <p>VoWHDC has consultations in progress for the Local Plan 2031, and also the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) until 19<sup>th</sup> December. Peter M, the Diocese's New Communities Officer is working with Abingdon Deanery submission on CIL. A Wantage Deanery consultation submission is anticipated. CIL appears to favour OCC / VoWHDC statutory bodies.</p> <p><b>Action</b> : HR to progress a Deanery consultation submission on CIL and Local Plan 2031.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Deanery Plan update/refresh</b>
	<p>As background to the Deanery Plan Refresh. The existing plan from 2011-12 was written when the housing was coming. The great majority of the aims of the original plan have now been completed. The shift in archdeaconries means that the status of an approved plan has changed. Formerly once the plan was agreed, everyone would be bound by it. However the new set-up is more flexible. It is better that we move in advance of events. Deanery Plans are meant to be living documents that are reviewed. It informs the Archdeaconry and the Bishop, and helps them make strategic decisions.</p>

	<p>At Deanery Standing Committee a number of streams were identified to refresh the plan. At this meeting the Attendees were asked to comment on the various streams and indicate which they were interested in helping to move forward. A list of people who signed up with the comments is given in Attachment 2.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> All Deanery Synod members to discern which streams they want to be involved in to move the plan forward, and notify either HR or Area Dean Revd Jason S (JN).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Deanery Pastoral &amp; Standing Committee to take forward the streams and leading of streams at their January meeting.</p> <p>HR noted that the deanery has received £2,000 from Bishop Colin for mission. A similar amount is expected to be received in 2015, but not thereafter.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> It was agreed that mission projects put forward by parishes for matched funded will be decided on by Deanery Pastoral Committee. Parish proposals are to be sent to either HR or the Area Dean Revd Jason S (JN).</p> <p>LH asked whether both one off events and on-going work were both eligible. HR said that both types of activity would be considered.</p> <p>Sarah S (SS) noted that in addition we have a £6,500 fund for youth, which could also support mission activities.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> It was agreed that youth projects put forward by parishes will be decided on by Deanery Pastoral Committee.</p> <p>JN encouraged all parishes to put in submissions, as there was a great desire to put the money to good use.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> HR to communicate to PCC Secretaries on Mission projects fund, and Youth fund.</p> <p><i>At this point there was the customary intermission in the formal proceedings for Deanery Synod members to discuss matters more informally and enjoy some refreshments. This time was also used for members to comment on and sign up to helping progress the various streams. The output from this session is shown in Attachment 2.</i></p>
6	<b>Parish Share</b>
	<p>SS reported that last year's Deanery Parish Share was met in time and that consequently the Deanery has gained a 3% rebate. In the process of doing this, the Deanery provided temporary funds to meet a shortfall from one parish. This is the first time, (as far as records go back) that</p>

	<p>as Deanery we completely met our Share. Currently we are one of only 3 deaneries in the Diocese that have achieved this.</p> <p>Last year, the amount that our Deanery had to pay (the Deanery Share) had gone up by the maximum of 4.6%. This time it is only going up by 0.74%. This will be very helpful to rebalance the contributions in our Deanery much faster.</p> <p>Last year's agreement at Deanery was that the cap for parishes would be no more than 2% above the Deanery cap of 4.1%, which would give a cap of 6.1%. At the Deanery Treasurers meeting, they recommended to this meeting a further limit this to 5% for the coming year, as it could push some parishes beyond the point that they could meet their share. They also recommended the 2015 Parish Share to this meeting.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The meeting unanimously accepted the Treasurers recommendation, and agreed that a 5% cap should be used for the coming year, and also the Parish Share for 2015.</p> <p>The Deanery Bank Account has now been moved to the TSB. Rebates will be paid electronically.</p> <p>JS proposed a vote of thanks to SS, and she received a round of applause.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	None.
<b>8</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>
	<p>The next meeting will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 7-30 PM, Venue to be organised by the Ridgeway Benefice.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Standing and Pastoral Committee will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 8:00pm at Grove Parish Church.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Closing Prayers</b>
	JD closed the meeting in prayer.

**Attachment 2: Wantage Deanery Plan Refresh  
November 2014 Synod - streams**

**Background / Introduction**

The notes below are from the 26th November Wantage Deanery Synod, where synod members wrote comments and involvement on sheets for each of the 6 streams. Two further streams have been identified, however they were considered by the Deanery Pastoral and Standing Committee to be in a premature state.

***New Housing, mission to new housing developments and ways of working***

Comments

- Get involved in Community Hub management
- Small housing units?
- Smaller developments in villages e.g. Hanney, East Hendred
- “Welcome notes” and new houses
- Prepare materials well in advance and drop it in as soon as people move in – follow-up with Christmas and Easter schedules for next 2 years
- Teaching young mothers how to cook well for their families

Individuals

- Fr Michael B
- Chris G
- Richard M
- Hugh R
- Paul T

***Planning for Wantage Parish – Ministry for Wantage***

Comments

- Crab Hill – separate community or to be brought into the fold!
- Mission to the elderly – we need to take church to them
- Stipendiary priest evangelist with experience and from a tradition that complements all we do
- Develop a parish plan with PCC recognising that we don’t know exactly how housing etc. develops

Individuals

- Richard M

***Chaplaincy for secondary schools – including consider funding of say £15K / £20K for part-time post***

Comments

- Link in to foundation laid by “Open the book”
- Great idea – what about “Lay Chaplains” in a chaplaincy team
- Possibly low key
- Yes to lay chaplaincy – Ordained people may be too remote and foreign to many pupils
- At right level for audience
- Building relationships with busy and overworked staff

Individuals

- Gill M

***Growing together – Deanery Ecumenical, by shared projects for Mission***

Comments

- Christmas Lunch!
- Using the Oxford Theological colleges to help run a “Mission”
- Wassail project in Wantage Downs
- Pilgrimage
- We are an ageing population – should we consider mission to the elderly?

Individuals

- Revd. Leonora H

***Social Justice***

Comments

*none mentioned*

Individuals

- Fr Michael B
- Pat H
- Richard M
- Hugh R

***Youth – including part-funded youth worker from Section 106 moneys***

Comments

- Let’s get behind this and support the idea / person

Individuals

- Pat H
- Hugh R