

DORCHESTER DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the seventeenth triennium held on Tuesday 1 October 2019 at the St Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas.

1. **Opening Prayer and Welcome**

The Rural Dean opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed visiting speakers, Ven. Penny Sayer, Canon Richard Hancock and Sarah Keen.

2. **The Archdeacon of Sherborne, Ven. Penny Sayer.**

The Archdeacon noted that although this was her first visit to Dorchester Deanery Synod she had now been in post for ten months and, on a show of hands, the larger part of the meeting had already met her. She had, however, only recently completed a course for newly-appointed Archdeacons. She said she was responsible for 185 churches and had used the 2019 AD visitations as an opportunity to meet people in their own settings. She found that they were doing a really good job. She is currently engaged in recruiting a new Team Vicar for St George's, Fordington and a new Team Rector for St Mary's, Dorchester to replace Canon Thomas Woodhouse following his appointment as Queen's Chaplain. The Archdeacon answered a number of questions from the floor. She said that while she had visited the area prior to appointment and knew it to be beautiful, that was during a particularly dry period; she had not realised just how beautiful. She was specially struck by the views as one approaches Bridport from Dorchester. She also explained the composition of the Bishop's senior management team of which she is now a member. When asked what advice she would give herself after ten months in post she replied: 'Just enjoy a great job!' Asked about Faculties and AD's Permissions she said that in this diocese everything goes through the Diocesan Advisory Committee in the first instance but she is always willing to respond to Church Wardens' questions or problems via email: adsherborne@salisbury.anglican.org

3. **Renewing Hope for a Rural Ministry**

This topic was introduced by the Revd. Canon Richard Hancock, TSSF who is the Rural Field Office for the Dorset Archdeaconry, using a PowerPoint presentation. He was assisted by Sarah Keen who is Programme Manager, Rural Hope. The RFO for the Sherborne Archdeaconry is Alice Farnhill who was not able to be present on this occasion. Rather than attempt to precis the presentation, I attach the PowerPoint pages which will serve as a reminder to those present and help to inform those who were not. I also attach two hand-outs: *The Four Pillars of Mission and Growth in the Rural Church* and also information about THRIVE which explains the training courses available for those who engage in this process.

Contacts: Alice Farnhill, RFO for Sherborne: RFOSherborne@salisbury.anglican.org
Telephone: 07726 211498 or Sarah Keen, Programme Manager, Rural Hope: sarah.keen@salisbury.anglican.org Telephone 01722 411922.

4. **Minutes of Meeting of 9 May 2019**

These were approved and signed.

5. **Matters Arising**

There were none.

6. **General Synod Report**

This item was omitted as Canon Thomas Woodhouse has left the deanery.

7. **Financial Matters**

Michael Clarke, (*treasurer*) reported that he had attended a Deanery Treasurers' Meeting last week. The total share for Dorchester Deanery in 2020 will be £539,000 which is virtually the same as 2019. The 2020 share apportionment letter will be sent to parish treasurers shortly. Some Parish Treasurers will be asked to re-submit the 2019 accounts as they have been lost due to a computer break-down. Angie Wheeler, who answered so many queries regarding diocesan finance is retiring at the end of this month. We wish her a very happy retirement.

8. **Any Other Business** – There was none.

9. **Closing Worship** led by the Rural Dean took the form of a short service of Compline.

ATTENDANCE

| | Present | Possible | Apologies |
|-----------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| House of Clergy | 5 | 19 | 1 |
| House of Laity | 21 | 48 | 9 |

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7.30 pm at St George' Church Hall, Fordington

Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7.30 pm at Charminster.

Standing Committee:

Monday 4 November at 10.30 am at the Vicarage, Back Lane, Cerne Abbas

Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 10.30 am at the Vicarage, Back Lane, Cerne Abbas

Deanery Website Page: <https://dorchesterdeanerysynod.org.uk/>

Deanery Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Dorchester-Deanery-Synod-109579403746451/?modal=admin_todo_tour