

Dorchester Deanery Synod

Minutes of the third meeting of the eighteenth triennium held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at St Mary's C of E Middle School, Puddletown DT2 8SA.

Present: List kept by Secretary.

Apologies: Bob Light, the Revd Jo Lacy-Smith, the Revd Jean Saddington, the Revd John Wood, David Parsons, Alan Neades, Peter Steel, Margaret Walters, Margaret Morrissey, Susan Clarke and the Revd Jonathan Still.

1. **Opening Prayer:**

The Revd Sarah Hillman welcomed all to the meeting as our first face to face outdoors since Covid restrictions. She invited us to share in the opening prayer Benedicte (for creation and God's world). Jill Minchin reported back on Margaret Morrissey our Lay Chair who had a grade 8 stroke on Ascension Day. She has just been sent home (Monday). She has no use of right side at present. The family have asked that she receives no visitors at this stage.

2. **Apologies for Absence:** See above.

3. **Minute of previous meeting 4th May 2021:** These were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the Revd Sarah Hillman.

4. **Matter Arising:** None

5. **Climate Change – net zero by 2030:** Archdeacon, the Ven Penny Sayer was the guest speaker on this occasion. Amongst many things she shared was the point that as churches unlock from Covid we should start properly to think about our footprint and consider small steps of things we could do from the fact sheet produced by the Archbishop's Council in April 2020. She explained that the situation is a work in progress which will come on stream anywhere within the next 2, 3 or 5 years. The year 2020 was when we were supposed to set our baseline measure for our carbon footprint, but from 2019 figures to 2020 there were huge reductions as churches were not open and using heat, light etc! We should therefore use our own church 2019 figures to look with our PCCs at our individual churches, including logging our buildings for energy use. Penny explained that we should not just be considering our church buildings but that PCCs should be looking at halls, property, vicarages and their church schools (although the latter is about our influence as we have no control over their finances). Another question is whether Church House in Salisbury is fit for purpose as there is limited parking and travel for Archdeacons is expensive. There is research into the cost of providing Archdeacons with hybrid cars. Firstly Beaminster and now the Cathedral have received Gold Eco Awards and churches may consider this for themselves. We need to model best practice and learn from each other so the Grapevine is planning to produce regular articles with advice and ideas. Individuals such as Andrew Rowland at Wimborne Minster (formerly a heating engineer) have useful guidance on heating and Oxford is ahead of the Eco journey. Penny suggested churches look at Eco church and particularly bio-diversity (for example weaving twigs into hedges, producing habitats for birds, bees and insects) In other words do the 'easy wins' first and then look to the challenge of more expensive schemes. Following the speaker questions were taken from members of the Deanery Synod and we then broke into groups to discuss what we might take back to our churches.

6. **Financial Statement:** Mr Michael Clarke our treasurer had two things to report. Firstly that there is a new parish accounting system being trialled by the diocese which is already proving useful to churches with a larger turnover but will apply to all. Secondly that our share for the year ending 2020 where churches were closed was very positive and we achieved 90% of the share. So far this year we have achieved 43% of the share which is a great achievement particularly for small parish churches where there has been no income for many months and no fetes or fundraising activities. The question arises as to how we will manage for this coming year and with the Stewardship Campaign in September.

7. **AOB and dates for next and future meetings:** Hazel Morgan (Charminster) said she had copies of 'A Church for Everyone' left over and was giving each Benefice 20 to take away and put in their churches. A representative from each Benefice to collect at the end of the meeting. Philippa Francis (Tolpuddle) thanked everyone for their support with Ride and Stride which was able to go ahead last year and raised £120,000 in a single day (compared to £87,000 in the previous year). This year's event will be on Saturday 11th

September and Philippa asked clergy to note the date and let parishioners know so that we can have continued support. Information is being delivered to each parish representative at the moment.

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be held on Thursday 4th November via Zoom and will include information from the Diocesan Finance Team. This Monday 19th there is a Standing Committee Meeting via Zoom.

8 **Closing Prayer:** The Revd Sarah Hillman gave the closing prayer.

Meeting closed at 20:50.