

# SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at St Andrew's, Churchdown

**Present:**

Clergy: Canon H Sammon, Revds: J Walden, S Mason, P Donald, J Perkin, D Button, P Phillips

Laity: Mrs M Barnes, Mr N Hogg, Mr C Hickson, Mr J Myrans, Mr P Ingram, Mr G Davies, Miss E

Castle, Mr R Cook, Miss F Pearce, Mr C Hill, Canon R Parker, Dr A Nicol, Mrs C May, Miss M

Swinley, Mrs G McGhee, Mrs R Clowes, Mrs C Steadman, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs M Mitchell, Mrs E

Frampton, Mrs J Smith, Mr C Thomson, Mrs R Blandford, Mr D Wright, Mrs S Hargreave, Mr S

Riddick, Mrs F Down, Mrs S Padfield

In Attendance: Revd. J Wetherall – Diocesan Children and Families Officer, Canon I Marsh and Mr R French - PSALMS

**Apologies:**

Clergy: Revds: C Ingram, S Monk, C Sterry, S Skepper, J Longuet- Higgins, S Taylor, B Lillie, J Hyde, L Bloom,

Laity: Mrs K Carpenter, Ms H Dunsford, Mrs R Cottell, Mrs H Cotton, Mr P Makepeace, Mrs M Billingham, Mr N Langstone, Mr A Hawker-Bond, Mr C Jakeman, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr P Cotton

Sue welcomed members to St Andrew's and handed over to Jonathan Perkin who spoke on Galatians 6:7-10 saying that by sowing the true gospel the harvest would be a full church.

Sue welcomed Ian Marsh and Rob French from PSALMS. She also gave notice that the Revd David Gill, who had served on the standing committee for around seven years had stepped down and a clergy replacement would be sought shortly. Sue asked synod to note that Canon Helen Sammon was elected to Diocesan Synod from her previous deanery but, having moved to a post in Severn Vale, would henceforth be representing us.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were approved.

**Matters Arising:** None

**Presentation by PSALMS:** (Painswick and Stroud Area Local Ministries)

Canon Ian Marsh with the aid of a short video gave a history of their experience which started in the then Bisley deanery of looking for a means of connecting with young people in the area and discovering that it was sport that excited the majority of them. This led to the forming of a sports ministry under the leadership of a newly qualified young couple. In order to begin this ministry they sought pledges of at least £12000 and had a total of £45000! Money has never been an issue but it is difficult to get church congregations to volunteer. It is important for churches to recognise that this work may get youngsters into the kingdom but not necessarily into a particular church. They are currently advertising for a replacement sports minister but without success so far.

Rob French (newly appointed director of sports ministries) then gave a further outline of what is involved in sports ministry. He reckoned that 80% of people of all ages had some connection with sport whether as participant, supporter or simply as watcher. One of their most enthusiastic volunteers is in his eighties! Sport is also one of the new LIFE objectives and is being headed up by Ben Preece-Smith the Diocesan Secretary.

## **Diocesan Development Fund:**

Simon gave an update on the Deanery's proposal to use the fund to establish a pilot scheme to finance a schools pastor based on Newent Secondary School. Simon has had discussions with Katherine Warner who is now heading up the Development Fund and she has taken this as an expression of interest. Katherine will be meeting with the standing committee in due course to firm up the next steps. PSALMS have offered their support and contacts have been made with Gloucestershire Youth for Christ, Christians in Sport and Roaring Rugby as well as several chaplains in school settings. These have yielded positive results with a general indication of support. Members were asked to encourage prayer in our churches for the scheme. If we can get an application in before the end of May it might be possible appoint someone for the next academic year.

A request was made from the members to produce a brief outline of the aims and objectives of the project which could be circulated with the minutes.

## **Reports:**

### **Parish Share:**

Roger circulated the results for 2016 and the expectations for 2017. We are the only deanery to have paid its full allocation and he passed on the thanks of the diocese. There had been some shortfalls but other benefices had been very generous in helping to make up the difference plus a small contribution from the deanery fund. The commitments given for 2017 are below our allocation but some benefices have committed what they feel sure they can achieve but hope to pay more. Sue thanked Roger for all his work on this.

### **Treasurer:**

Steve said that the funds were in a healthy state and around half of this year's £10 subscriptions had already been paid.

**Diocesan Synod:** Reports from the meetings of November 2016 and February 2017 had been distributed with the minutes.

**General Synod:** Was still in session and Sue pointed out that in the report from Diocesan Synod +Rachel had said that she thought there would not be a discussion or vote on the Bishops Report on the Shared Conversations but that this had clearly been incorrect. The debate on the subject at GS can be heard by following [this link](#) from the GS website. Simon said that we hoped to be able to circulate details of upcoming matters at both Diocesan and General Synods in the future.

**LIFE:** There is a need to ensure that material produced by each of the groups heading the fourteen areas of interest is available to the local churches and those who have a passion for a particular area have the opportunity to be involved. J Wetherall said that the leaders and makeup of some of the groups had not been finalised yet.

**News and Sharing:** Sheets giving key dates for 2017 were distributed and a copy would be added to the minutes. There will be requests for information such as intentions for new housing developments and plans to serve them.

Chris asked for church representatives to act as distribution for the Ride and Stride packs to save postage. There will be a two year course starting in the autumn on Spiritual Direction called 'A Companion's Way'. Rudford has good facilities and is being converted into a retreat facility for around fifteen. There are to be quiet days on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month called 'Rudford Retreats'

**Date of Next Meeting:** The advertised date of 21<sup>st</sup> June clashes with Diocesan Synod and will be revised soon. The 10<sup>th</sup> October is unchanged.