

SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2014 at St John's Churchdown

Present:

Clergy: Canon R Mitchell, Revds: J Walden, A Lomas, J Bond, S Hobbs, S Dangerfield, S Mason, S Skepper, K Morgan, S Taylor, P Donald

Lay: Mrs K Carpenter, Mrs R Cottell, Mrs H Cotton, Mrs E Ashenden, Mr R Ashenden, Mr N Hogg, Mr T Wiltshire, Mr R Cook, Mr P Stephenson, Canon R Parker, Mrs C May, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs J Frost, Mr A Hawker-Bond, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs M Mitchell, Mr M Heylings, Mrs H Witcomb, Mrs R Blandford, Mr C Jakeman, Mrs S Hargreave, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr A Clive, Mrs S Padfield

Apologies:

Clergy: Revds: C Ingram, C Sterry

Lay: Mrs V Bolch, Mr C Hill, Mrs R Clowes, Mrs B Fellowes, Mrs J Heylings, Mrs J Corless, Miss E James, Mr P Cotton

Opening Prayers: were led by Rev. Katy Morgan

Welcomes: Sue welcomed Tony Hawker-Bond (to his first synod meeting), The Dean, Stephen Lake, and Noel Sharp of Christian aid.

Minutes: of the meeting on 3rd October were approved and there were no matters arising.

Elections to Deanery Synod: Richard reminded members that deanery synod representatives will be elected at this year's APCMs and to check the lists sent to PCC secretaries regarding the places available for each benefice. He also urged that churches recognised the importance of selecting people representative of their views as Deanery members would form the electorate for Diocesan and General Synod members in 2015.

Deanery benefices Prayer Link: Sue reminded members of the prayer links that had previously been set up between benefices when Gloucester North and Forest North deaneries merged and encouraged members to foster those links.

Christian Aid: Noel Sharp outlined the vital work Christian Aid (now in its 70th year) do in various parts of the world both in providing emergency aid and in developing self-sufficiency. Christian Aid is working with the clothing retailer Monsoon to provide work for people in the third world. He said that around \$160 billion is lost in developing countries through companies not paying their taxes! Christian Aid needs people to Pray, Act, Give. They need local church reps and people who will go into schools. If a group can raise £5000 over 3 years the EU will give £15000. It was felt that this is a realistic Deanery Project that we could begin.

The Dean: Stephen Lake is visiting all deaneries to explain the cathedral's vision and strategy plan. The cathedral costs £2.2 million per year to run and has 60 different size properties which it has to maintain. It has around 300,000 visitors per year and, unlike many others, does not charge in order to be available to all. The average donation per head is 53p which is insufficient. It aims to be 'In tune with heaven – In touch with daily life'.

The Dean outlined the goals to be achieved in 1 to 5 years' time which include becoming the church in the centre of the city working with the City, County and Diocese, being more confident in Christian witness and discipleship and bolder in activity and community service.

There is an ambitious 10 year programme called Project Pilgrim which is built on pride in the cathedral and will act as a tipping point for heritage based restoration. This will see the replacement of the car park with an open public space, internal refurbishment to improve the entrance and the Lady Chapel, a new hospitality centre, solar panels, font, access to the crypt and library and restoration of the medieval parliament rooms. A major heritage lottery fund bid has been made which, if successful, will see work start in 2015.

Parish Share: Roger was pleased to report that all parishes have given at least what they promised and £1500 more. He also stressed that this was still less than the true cost of ministry and that, unless things changed, there would have to be a loss of paid clergy in some places.

Treasurer: Hazel reported that this year's accounts had been signed off (copy with the secretary) and the balance at the bank is £1320.56

Journeying Together: Members were asked to be prepared to come to the June meeting with a report from each benefice on how what they are doing is fitting in with JT or to look at the booklet and see what they could take on. There was general support for using some of the deanery funds to run another Lay Worship Leaders course.

General Synod reports from the November and February sessions were circulated and summarised by Richard. He said that the new synod members will have to look into the difficult issues of human sexuality.

Carbon Fast: Details were presented of the proposal to get parishes and individuals to reduce their carbon footprint by making a special effort during Lent

Notices: The flooding in Ashleworth and Tirley will take 3 months or more to recover from so members were urged to pray for these congregations.

The standing committee will investigate the idea of a deanery Christian Aid project to raise £5000 in 3 years.

Newent are having a day of ministry of prayer for healing with Jeanie Morgan on 15th March between 9.30 and 4.00

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 25th June – venue to be advised. Bishop Martyn will be with us.

Notes: Subsequent enquiries show that the Christian Aid scheme is two years not three see link:- <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/communitypartnership/index.aspx>

Deanery links list attached.

DEANERY BENEFICES PRAYER LINKS

West of Severn	-	Leadon Vale
Newent etc	-	Seven Towers
Forest Edge	-	St John's, Churchdown
Mitcheldean etc	-	Brockworth
Highnam etc	-	St Andrew's, Churchdown
Westbury etc	-	Greenway