

# SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at St Mary's Church, Newent

**Present:**

Clergy: Revds: L Bloom, J Longuet-Higgins, S Mason, J Hyde, D Browne, S Taylor

Laity: Canon R Parker, Mrs M Barnes, Mrs H Cotton, Mr N Hogg, Mr G Goodman, Mr G Davies, Miss E Castle, Mr R Cook, Mr C Hill, Dr A Nicol, Miss M Swinley, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs R Clowes, Mrs C Steadman, Mrs B Fellowes, Mr S Fellowes, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs M Mitchell, Mrs E Frampton, Dr A Holland, Mrs R Blandford, Mrs C Langham, Mr P Cotton, Mrs H Murphy, Mrs F Down, Mrs S Padfield, Mrs S Hargreave, Mrs J Churchill-Wood

In Attendance: Miss F Price – Placement Churchdown St John's, Mrs A Venables – West of Severn

**Apologies:**

Clergy: Canons J Perkin, H Sammon Revds: D Gill, J Walden, S Monk, S Cooke, S Skepper, P Donald, P Phillips

Laity: Mrs K Carpenter, Mrs R Cottell, Mr C Hickson, Mrs L Ashenden, Mr P Ingram, Mrs C May, Ms C Wilman, Mrs J Smith, Mr C Jakeman, Mrs P Trigg, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr S Riddick

Simon opened the meeting by quoting from Matthew 28 and the Great Commission and talked about signs of hope followed by playing Stuart Townend's song There is Hope on video.

Sue welcomed new members Anthea Holland, Anna Venables and Janet Churchill-Wood and Fay Price on placement at St John's, Churchdown.

The minutes of the meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were accepted with one correction to the date of the previous meeting.

Simon gave an update on the Newent Community School project. The governors had voted unanimously to allocate some space, which was larger than expected, for a quiet/prayer space and for counselling. Somebody from the Diocesan Development Group will be working with us towards appointing someone to the chaplaincy. The school is very keen and it is hoped to have proposals by the June synod.

John Longuet-Higgins and Jacqui Hyde spoke about plans to encourage ministry through sport. John spoke of the potential to use the World Cup as a focus for themed activities especially during the World Cup itself. There will be 'Pulse Games' in several locations around the western side of the deanery. These will be promoting various values to encourage perseverance. There will be a training day on the 24<sup>th</sup> March with Terry Williams who is an inspiring trainer working for Scripture Union (details already circulated) and there is a need to get as many as possible who are involved with young people to go to it especially from churches around Newent.

Jacqui then spoke about how the work of PSALMS which is the Stroud-based sports ministry had prospered and was now offering to help other areas with sports based ministry. She said that the Innsworth Community Hall had excellent facilities which had not been utilised. PSALMS are very good at drawing in children who are not sporty.

**LIFE Ambassadors:** The diocese is encouraging us to share our faith alongside other activities such as music and dance and is looking for feedback on what is happening. Sue then invited each benefice to share things that they were doing under some or all of the LIFE headings and then to write these on post-it notes which could be placed on a table under the various headings. Simon then outlined plans to make the deanery website a place where churches could put pictures and

ideas of their LIFE activities for the benefit of others. This depends on the website being adapted to enable it but once done details will be circulated to the appropriate people.

**Local Lay Training:** John and Jacqui then spoke about the idea of getting people who are already doing stuff to talk about it for the benefit of others. To this end they gave out a sheet for people to say what strengths or weaknesses were in their area so that these might be helped or used to help others.

**Local Support for Parish Officers:** Simon said that he recognised that there were several benefices which were either in vacancy or had ministers and others with long-term sickness and asked if there would be benefit in offering the opportunity for those who were thus carrying the burden to get together for mutual support and idea sharing.

**Parish Share:** Roger gave out a sheet with the current situation and said that, on the whole, we had done quite well but there had been areas where things had not worked out as planned and these would be corrected in 2018. One benefice had not yet given its commitment for 2018 due to long-term sickness of the rector.

**Treasurer:** Robert read out Steve's written report which showed a current balance of just over £2000 with some parishes yet to pay their subscriptions.

**Diocesan Synod:** The reports from the two synods since the last deanery meeting had been circulated but Simon drew attention to the item on GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) which is coming into force in May and will affect all PCCs and church groups who hold data on their members. There is much information on the [Diocesan Website](#) and training days are being held. Sue drew attention to #101Ways, suggestions for church-school partnership working, which is about to be published by the Life Group "making schools the heart of our mission" This year, in June, the elections for the next triennium of the Diocesan Synod will take place and anyone on the electoral roll of a church in the deanery can be elected by deanery synod members. The final numbers of vacancies is not yet known but will probably be about 4 laity. The possibility of making Lay Chairs and Area Deans ex-officio is being considered.

**General Synod:** No report has been made available by our diocese but one by Salisbury Diocese can be found [here](#).

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at St Andrew's Churchdown