



SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 at Redmarley C of E School

Present:

Clergy: Canon R Mitchell, Revds: D Gill, J Walden, J Hyde, A Lomas, L Bloom, S Mason, J Longuet- Higgins, S Taylor, P Phillips

Laity: Mrs M Barnes, Mr N Hogg, Mr C Hickson, Miss E Castle, Mr P Ingram, Miss F Pearce, Mrs J Bates, Dr A Nicol, Mrs C May, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs R Clowes, Mr D Sanderson, Mrs C Steadman, Mrs B Fellowes, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Cowdrey, Ms H Dunsford, Mrs A Barwell, Mrs E Frampton, Mrs J Smith, Mr C Thomson, Mrs H Witcomb, Mrs R Blandford, Mrs S Hargreave, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr S Riddick, Mrs F Down, Mrs S Padfield

Apologies:

Clergy: Canon H Sammon, Revds: S Newnes, J Perkin, B Lillie, C Ingram, S Monk, C Sterry, A Jones, S Skepper, P Donald,

Laity: Canon R Parker, Mrs K Carpenter, Mrs R Cottell, Mrs F Hall, Mr G Davies, Mr C Hill, Mr P Makepeace, Miss M Swinley, Mr D Wright

Opening Prayers: Prayers were led by Revd. A Lomas

Richard opened the meeting by welcoming any new members and congratulated those newly ordained, Ben Lillie and Lara Bloom (priest) and Simon Monk (deacon). He also thanked Sue for the refreshments and the school for hosting us.

Minutes: of the Meeting 23rd February 2016 were approved and no matters were raised.

Parish Share Report: Roger was not present but had reported that payments were fairly on target for the time of year but he will be contacting treasurers to make up the £5000 shortfall on commitments by three of our benefices.

Journeying On – Diocesan Conversations: Members were invited to share their experiences of ways in which they had engaged in conversations over the questions posed by Bishop Rachel. Several encouraging responses were given leading to insights into how the people at large viewed the church. The responses will be gathered and then discussed at the Diocesan Clergy Conference in September which will result in three or four key objectives for the diocese.

Church and School Partnerships: Sue introduced this item by giving a very comprehensive history of church schools and the church's involvement in education up to the present time saying that there are over a million children currently being educated in a church school and that the church is the biggest sponsor of academy schools. Gloucester Diocese is heavily involved in multi-academy trusts and has an important role in setting their vision and standards. This is mostly in relation to primary schools but there is one secondary school.

Members were then asked to report on what relationships with schools they were aware of in their benefices. A large number of initiatives were revealed such as Open the Book in many places, church members as governors, assistance with assemblies, I Sing Pop, Experience Easter, Christmas etc., after school clubs, supporting Christian Unions, using the church for school services, bibles for leavers and providing a prayer space in schools.

Jane Walden then gave a report on the activities that Brockworth were using to involve schools. They have two primary and one secondary school but there was only limited success with the secondary school. Their Open the Book teams are ecumenical but, for non-church schools, the teams have to be invited by the school but they have never been turned away from doing Christian things. Schools are invited to be involved in any concerts and there are lots of connections through baptisms. Children are encouraged to share their successes (of any kind) through the parish magazine and this is the bulk of the outreach to families.

There followed a ten minute discussion in small groups on the strategic link between church and schools. The feedback showed that there was lots to build on with primary schools but not so much with secondary schools. This is because they have a larger catchment area suggesting that a multi benefice approach might be more effective. Suggestions included having the congregation in schools when doing Open the Book or taking a full service in the school which would still be the benefice worshipping. It is important to build schools into the strategic planning e.g. Involving school children in visiting an old people's home.

Deanery treasurer: The Christian Aid Project fund stood at £4838.38 with another £150 to be added on the night. It was agreed to make the total up to the £5000 from Deanery funds to complete the project. Thanks were expressed to all those who had contributed.

Richard repeated the appeal for a new treasurer to replace Hazel Cotton who has retired and Steve Riddick was nominated and elected unopposed.

Healing and Wholeness report: Ruth Clowes spoke to the report already circulated and encouraged members to note the forthcoming events listed.

News: Several members gave notice of forthcoming events and then Sue gave thanks to Tony Lomas who is leaving to take up an appointment in France and to Richard Mitchell who is to become Canon Precentor in the cathedral. A collection had been taken for Richard, who has served as Area Dean for twelve years, and he was given a framed map of old Gloucestershire and some extras with which he was delighted.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13th October – venue to be decided