

SEVERN VALE DEANERY

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2014 at Mitcheldean CofE School

Present:

Clergy: Canon R Mitchell, Revds. D Gill, J Walden, S Dangerfield, A Jones, B Parfitt, A Lomas, S Skepper, J Longuet-Higgins, P Phillips

Laity: Mrs K Carpenter, Mrs R Cottell, Mrs H Cotton, Mr R Ashenden, Mr J Walden, Mr R Cook, Miss F Pearce, Canon R Parker, Mrs C May, Miss M Swinley, Mrs M McGhee, Mrs R Clowes, Mrs J Frost, Mrs B Fellowes, Mrs M Richardson, Mrs M Mitchell, Mr H James, Mr C Thomson, Mrs H Witcomb, Mr C Jakeman, Mr D Wright, Mrs S Hargreave, Mrs C Hitchins, Mr P Cotton, Mrs S Padfield, Mr R Dunnett

Apologies:

Clergy: Revds: C Ingram, P Donald, C Sterry, S Mason, I Gobey

Laity: Mr N Hogg, Mrs F Hall, Miss E Castle, Mrs K Clarke, Mrs M Billingham, Dr A Nicol, Mr A Hawker-Bond, Dr N Garbutt, Mr M Heylings, Mrs J Corless, Mrs J Smith, Mr S Riddick, Mrs H Murphy

Opening Prayers: were led by Revd. David Gill

Minutes: of the Meeting 25 June 2014 were approved and no matters were raised

Christian Aid Deanery Fundraising: Hazel Cotton reported that £171 had been sent to her so far. Each parish should aim to raise at least £57 per year. She asked that parishes paid the money into their own account so that Gift Aid could be claimed as Christian Aid cannot claim it on this project.

Journeying Together: Richard introduced the Deanery Journeying Together Action Plan. The aim is to resource benefices in what they are attempting to do and also to feed into the diocesan leadership and influence the diocese. The deanery has been given a set of actions which are broken down into seven key areas of which the first three will be discussed with incumbents. Members were then encouraged to divide into benefice groups to discuss the remaining four areas: 4) Identify opportunities and areas for church planting and fresh expressions of church with special reference to areas of new housing. 5) Encourage culturally appropriate evangelism leading to, for example, increased numbers of confirmation. 6) Encourage nurturing of faith and discipleship (including reference to schools) 7) Ensure that all parishes are engaging with stewardship by promoting the Parish Giving Scheme.

In each case members were asked to make notes that could be handed in for the audit on how these areas work out in their respective benefices currently and then to identify key areas for development and any resources that are needed to enable that to happen.

Following the group work each benefice reported back on the key areas that they had identified under each heading.

Deanery Crucible 2 Evening: Members were reminded of this private viewing event on Sunday 26th October and asked to let Sue have numbers by 20th.

Parish Share: Roger handed out a sheet detailing the breakdown of Parish Share by benefice and parish and once again stressed the importance of meeting Parish Share if we are not going to have to make incumbents redundant. Already some vacancies have not been filled and the situation could get worse. He also implored treasurers to respond to the requested Parish Share for next year with their committed amount or the diocese would assume that they would supply the requested amount. Parish treasurers have been circulated with the figures.

Treasurer's Report: Hazel reported that the deanery account stands at £1167.79 excluding the Christian Aid fund and three parishes have not yet paid their subs.

Diocesan Synod Report: The report of the meeting held on 11th October had already been circulated but Richard was able to give an update on the situation regarding Bishop Michael now that the Metropolitan Police were not taking any further action. Church safeguarding procedures were still to be completed but it is hoped that some form of farewell could be arranged before the end of the year.

The Vacancy in See committee was now active in beginning the procedure for finding the next Bishop of Gloucester and the Statement of Needs should be available on the diocesan website shortly. Any member of the church can nominate candidates that they would consider suitable for the post.

Dates of Meetings in 2015:

Tuesday 3rd March, Wednesday 24th June and Thursday 15th October