



Christianity Deanery Synod
Minutes of meeting held at
St Thomas Church Hall
Wednesday 20th February 2019 at 7:30pm

Apologies:

Laity: Richard Barnes (Mount Dinham) Mic Corby (St Thomas)
Dr Simon Harrison (St David's with St Michael and All Angels Mount Dinham)
Anne Foreman (General Synod) Emma Forward (General Synod)
Tegwyn Harris (St Mary Steps) Ken Law (Shillingford St George)
David Lotinga (St Leonard's) Mike Melville-Shreeve (E.N.C.)
Ian Powell (Trinity) Claire Reynolds (Trinity)
Richard Scott (St Leonard's) Gill Yates (Topsham)

Clergy : Rev Simon Austen (St Leonard's) Rev John Byatt (St Boniface)
Rev Jonny Elvin (Trinity) Rev Canon Rosemary Enever (St Mark's)
Rev Louise Grace (Topsham) Rev Chris Keane (St Leonard's)
Rev Prof Morwenna Ludlow (Cathedral) Rev Canon James Mustard (Cathedral)
Preb Mike Partridge (Alphington) Rev Martin Poolton (St James)
Rev Jon Soper (E.N.C.) Rev Canon Dr Mike Williams (Cathedral)

Welcome: Lay Chair Dr David Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Very Rev Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter Cathedral, Rev Canon Dr Chris Palmer (Chancellor, Exeter Cathedral) and Rev Canon Becky Totterdell (St Peter Canon, Exeter Cathedral); also to Pat Beasley (Topsham) and Anne Noakes (St James), attending their first synod.

Act of Worship: Rev Dr David Nixon (St Thomas) led a short act of worship from the Iona community, including Jesus' reassuring words recorded in John's Gospel (11:17-27), followed by a time of prayer and silent reflection following the tragic and premature deaths of Anthony Payne, Richard and Roger Carter.

Main Focus: **The role of Exeter Cathedral in Deanery and Diocese.**

A summary of presentations made by Dean Jonathan, Canons Chris and Becky from the Cathedral has been prepared separately and submitted with these minutes.

Minutes of meeting 11th October 2018:

Were accepted as a true record nem con and signed by the Lay Chair.

Diocesan Synod Report addressing Matters Arising from Deanery Synod 11th October 2018:

The Lay Chair confirmed that since October Synod, stage 1 of the Resource Church Bid has been formally approved by Diocesan Synod. Stage 2 will now proceed with further consultation with the Deanery and its parishes before the end of May this year. Diocesan Synod have also approved the Common Fund budget for 2019 and the Setting God's People Free initiative was also discussed.

It was noted that among a number of recent retirements and other departures from Diocesan offices, was that of Martyn Goss after 36 years as Director of Church and Society. The Lay Chair expressed the Deanery's disappointment that Martyn appeared to receive little or no recognition for his service to the Diocese. The Lay Chair and Rev Sheila Swarbrick will prepare and issue a formal report on Diocesan Synod in due course.

News from the parishes:

Synod was informed that the ecumenical Joyfest project in which all church congregations are encouraged to make random acts of generosity across the city has been launched and runs alongside Thy Kingdom Come. For further details email: hello@joyfest.org.uk

St James Parish Hall is hosting a public consultation on the proposed Exmouth Junction (off Mount Pleasant) development from 1-7pm on XXXXXXXXXXXX.

Exeter Street Pastors is recruiting. The deadline for applications to be considered for the new training sessions which start in early March was Wednesday 20th February with some leeway possible on this.

St David's Parish Church are holding a pre-Brexit vigil on Wednesday 27th March commencing with 8am Eucharist and ending with Compline at 6pm. All welcome to attend, light candles and join in prayer and silence throughout the day.

Synod members were reminded that the next Diocesan Synod will only discuss further the Diocesan vision and strategy and on finance. No decisions will be taken at this meeting.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary read a letter received from St Mark's thanking Synod for the grant of £300 received towards the cost of new laptop which will enable them to project orders of service at their all-age and other services. This illustrates how the grants awarded really do make a difference.

The Exeter Bach Society, Choir and Orchestra with Exeter Chorale and the choir of St Peter's School, Lypstone will perform J.S. Bach's St Matthew Passion at the Salvation Army Temple, Friars Gate, Exeter on Saturday 9th March 2019 commencing at 7pm. Tickets £15 in advance from Tourist Information Centre (Tel: 01392 665885) or £18 on the door.

The Secretary then invited Fr Charles Keay (St Thomas) to inform Synod about the pilgrimage to Walsingham in Norfolk from Monday 13th – Friday 17th May 2019 being organised by St Thomas Parish. He encouraged anyone from our Deanery's churches to join them stating that if there at least 30 people (there are currently 13), it will be possible to book a really nice coach! Further details are available from Fr Charles on 07948 600619 or email: fathercharles04@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer requested that a delegate from each of the Deanery's churches took a booklet of guidance for their PCC Treasurer before they leave. He reported on the 2018 payments to Common Fund, which were generally good with 93% of payments made; the average for the whole Diocese being 92.3%. He reminded members that it is essential that churches maintain their Common Fund payments to avoid future loss of clergy. He also confirmed the Deanery still has money to make grants for parish projects including support for Street Pastor training. There is £4,000 available this year and he would welcome suggestions and applications from any qualifying project or good cause.

Area Dean's Report:

The Area Dean was pleased to inform members that Rev Sheila Swarbrick had been appointed Chapter Clerk and will be a great help to the Deanery.

Concerning the Resource Church initiative, he described this as both the biggest opportunity but also the biggest challenge being strong pragmatically but weak theologically, a point echoed by The Dean of Exeter Cathedral which is Patron of St Matthews. Following his meeting with the church community there, The Dean expressed that despite the uncertainty, he felt it right to support this. The Area Dean is due to meet with Ed Hodges who has been appointed to lead this initiative and hopes also to progress the idea of an Exeter bid for funding for more traditional churches.

Assistant Diocesan Secretary Ed Moffat and Diocesan Missioner Rev Barry Dugmore are currently exploring possible funding for a new church within one of the Deanery's new housing developments.

The Area Dean also informed Synod that an embarrassed contractor responsible for a development of flats in St Thomas parish is going to replace temporary signs referring to it as St Emmanuel's Court with new ones without 'St' after this was queried with them.

Lay Chair's Report:

The Lay Chair informed Synod that Archdeacon of Exeter, Ven Christopher Futchter, is to be the next Archdeacon of Cyprus and The Gulf. He will leave the Diocese officially on Wednesday 3rd July with a farewell service to be held at Exeter Cathedral. A job advertisement for his replacement is on the Diocesan website.

The Lay Chair also informed members that the Ride and Stride Day in September this year clashes with Ordination day at The Cathedral with discussions currently taking place concerning what to do. He suggested that maybe a shortened event might still be arranged.

Any Other Business:

General Synod is currently meeting. A report will be circulated when available.

The Parish of St Mark suggested the Deanery might organise an inter-parish quiz evening to bring parishes together and have some fun in the process. This will be discussed further at the next Standing and Pastoral Committee meeting but seemed to receive some support from members.

The Parish of St Leonard are hosting a Christians in Sport Quiz on Friday 22nd March including a meal and half-time talk on Christianity. Further details available on their church website.

The Lay Chair then closed the meeting with prayer at 9:05pm.

Diary Dates 2019:**Deanery Synod:**

Thursday 27th June: St Margaret, Topsham - 7:30pm with refreshments from 7pm.

Tuesday 22nd October: St James - 7:30pm with refreshments from 7pm.

Pastoral and Standing Committee: all commencing at 7:45pm

Wednesday 5th June.

Tuesday 23rd July.

Thursday 26th September.