

1. **Welcome:** Revd Pat Freeth, Interim Area Dean, warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly any new members with us for the first time, and also our speaker for the evening Bishop Robert. Thanks also to the ladies kindly serving refreshments for us this evening.
2. **Present/Apologies:** There were 31 Synod members present, as per the Register, with apologies received from: Simon Barker, Kim Trinder, Rob Cotterill, Hazel Stacey, Philip Davenport, Ann Greaves, Kathy Lee, Linda Jarvis, Andrew Pemberton, Steve Harrison, Peter Busby, Revd Sandy Emery, Revd Stephen Jarvis, and Revd Liz Palin.
3. **Prayer** – The meeting began with prayer led by Revd Kate Stacey.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on Wednesday 10th October 2018 at Cainscross Church Hall were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Matters arising** not covered elsewhere on the Agenda – none.

5. **Speaker – Rt Revd Robert Springett – Bishop of Tewkesbury**  
**Deanery Visit for Lent, Holy Week and Easter**

*(Coloured copies of the 'Journey for Lent with Bishop Robert' flyers were available for each parish in the Deanery individually - copy on the home page of the Deanery website)*

*(Lent – Luke 5 – A time of renewal – invite others to review their own relationship with God, to go deeper with him and invite others to that knowledge)*

+Robert outlined his planned visits around the Deanery during his visit, particularly during Holy Week, culminating in the Easter Eve Vigil Eucharist and Deanery Confirmation service, and also outreach organisations working with those 'on the edge'. Please pray for all of these, and +R thanked everyone for their engagement. Wider Deanery focus – Everyone was asked to consider inviting someone personally to come along and explore together something of the Christian faith, to consider their faith and what it might mean to them, particularly perhaps those who may not have been confirmed. The session will be on each Wednesday during lent, beginning on 6th March, Ash Wednesday, with the final session on Wednesday 17th April. +R will lead and others will come along to share their stories – based in Stroud for the whole Deanery community, it is an open invitation to anyone who might be interested in coming along to find out more, culminating in an Easter Eve Vigil at 7pm and Deanery Confirmation service. It would be helpful to have an idea of numbers for catering, please contact Revd Kate Stacey – Email: [rector@stroudparishchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@stroudparishchurches.org.uk)  
The Area Dean thanked +Robert for coming to talk to us – and we look forward to sharing time together during his Deanery visit.

6. **Deanery and Diocesan Life Vision** – The Lay Chair reported that there are lots of activities going on across the Diocese – Kathryn Warner, Life Vision Officer, and Secretary to the Life Development Fund recently updated the Standing Committee on the Life Priority Groups, highlighting a number of ongoing projects:

- **Shapes for Living** – Lent Course and follow-up
- **Plans for a Laity Conference in 2020** looking at “Setting God’s people free”
- **Partnership with Cheltenham Literary Festival** – Sharing Stories Group – Family Tent.
- **Diverse Leaders – Ministry experience scheme for 18-30 year olds** exploring vocations before going into ordained ministry. Small groups in local communities.
- **Releasing our Leaders** – A pilot scheme looking in to how we can best support our ordained and lay ministers to do the things they are good at, particularly in multi-parish benefices, by making sure we have admin support in place. Andrew Braddock will hopefully be working on this with Steve Harrison and The Stroudwater Team.
- **Funeral Pilot started in Gloucester City Deanery** – now quite established – Revd Mike Smith is involved in the development of this initiative – to be funded from the increased number of

funerals coming through in the longer term. One central contact point, with everything being managed and coordinated in one place for the whole of the Gloucester City area.

- **Life Priority Groups** – made up of representatives from our worshipping communities from all across the Diocese. If you are interested in joining one of the groups to share a particular interest or offer a particular skill, do please get in touch.
- **Life Development Fund** – As well as larger projects, the fund considers applications from individual groups that demonstrate a link to the Life Vision. One particular project being considered at the moment The Fig Tree in Stonehouse, supported by Steve Harrison, seeking funding for the first 3 years of the project. The Committee meets 5 times a year.

If you have anything that you would like to promote in your parish, do let Sally know and it can be placed on the Deanery Website.

## **7. Reports**

**7.1 Diocesan Synod** – Meeting on 2nd February 2019 - The meeting was unfortunately cancelled until 9th March due to snow!

We are very under-represented on Diocesan Synod, with only 2 of a possible 8 lay representatives. Commitment: 3 meetings a year, 2 on Saturdays and one evening, giving you an insight into to the broader church at national level. Please have a word with Margaret if you might be interested in representing our Deanery.

**7.2 Parish Share 2018** – final position- Thank you to everyone for their continued hard work delivering on what they pledged to pay in Parish Share – we ended the year paying 98% of what was expected.

**Parish Share allocations 2019** – We are in a rather awkward position at the moment as there are a number of parishes still to confirm what their contributions are going to be. It is now really urgent to provide the figures as this is how we fund our mission across the Diocese, and they cannot confirm their budget until the figures are finalised. There has been some delay with the parishes taking part in the Illuminate, school-based project, where their PS contribution is reduced by a corresponding amount. Please advised the Deanery Office and the Finance Team by the end of the week if your figures are still outstanding, as a matter of urgency please. **A plea to PCC's – When you have your APCM this year and plan your meeting dates, please make sure that you have one in November, when you will need to make your decision about PS.** Thanks to Margaret for all her efforts as acting Parish Share officer for our Deanery.

**7.3 Deanery Office Funding** – Presentation by Mike Lambert, Deanery Treasurer laying out the financial position for the year to 31st December 2018, as per the attached sheet. Total for the year £10,880 including Area Dean admin support, with a breakdown of how the money was spent. There is a surplus, mainly due to the increase in Area Dean monies, but this will be reduced going forward, as the vacancies are now filled within our Deanery. Budget for 2019 – The surplus will help cover us for the first 3 months of the year until monies for this year are received. As a number of parishes are still to make their confirmed PS commitments it is difficult at the moment to give the exact percentage required to cover the office expenses. It is hoped that the figure required will be slightly less than last year. A funding request letter will be going out to parish Treasurers shortly.

## **8. Parish & Benefice Update**

- **The Stroudwater Team** – A new appointment has been made for the Team Vicar - Revd David Bishop will be licensed on 23rd April to the Team, based in the Stonehouse Vicarage, with particular responsibility for 5 of the 15 parishes - the team is now complete.
- **The Bisley Benefice** – The process to appoint a new House for Duty priest is ongoing
- **Minchinhampton and Nailsworth**– A very warm welcome to their first Deanery Synod meeting for Revd Canon Howard Gilbert and Revd Caroline Bland.

- The Beacon Benefice – The position is still vacant and proving rather difficult to fill – Revd Tudor Griffiths has been doing some work to help with the Parish Profile – hopefully we will be advertising again soon.

The Diocese are planning to hold an information day, with a free lunch, for clergy who might be interested in joining our area to help promote the vacancies that are on offer.

#### 9. Meeting Dates for 2019

<b>Standing/Pastoral Com.10am-12 noon all at The Church Office, Stroud</b>	<b>Deanery Synod all at 7.30 pm</b>	<b>Revd Mike Smith Speaker/Topic</b>
<b>Tuesday 30th April</b>	<b>Wednesday 22nd May <u>Painswick Church Room</u></b>	<b>Revd Mike Smith Diocesan Christian Giving Co-ordinator Revd Arthur Champion Diocesan Environment Advisor</b>
<b>Tuesday 17th September</b>	<b>Wednesday 9th October <u>Cainscross Church Hall</u></b>	<b>Archdeacon Hilary Dawson</b>

#### 10. Chair's Announcements

- **Howard Lay** is planning to stand down from the Deanery Standing Committee. Thanks to Howard for all his efforts for our Deanery. We now have 2 places on the Standing Committee to fill – commitment, 3 meetings per year - do please let us know if you are interested in becoming involved.
- **THRIVE initiative** – Creating a learning community for leaders, both clergy and lay, across our Deanery, particularly across multi-parish benefices, to provide support and enable new ideas and plans to be developed. Revd Pauline Godfrey leads the training, in conjunction with CPAS. Commitment: 2 full days over 2 years, plus final day for review and commissioning. 4 of our multi-parishes benefices have expressed an interest in becoming involved in the project.
- **Archdeacon Hilary** will be visiting the Deanery, particularly to see clergy, on 3rd/4th June. We are planning a Deanery Service on the evening of the 3rd June at Painswick Church so that everyone can come along and meet her. Further details in due course.
- **Safeguarding Workshop** – We are awaiting confirmation of dates from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team to visit our Deanery to communicate directly about the annual checklists and the new Parish Safeguarding Handbook, to be aimed at Incumbents, Churchwardens and parish Safeguarding Officers – more details shortly. Safeguarding training available locally on Wednesday 25th September, 7-9.30pm at St Peter's Church, Framilode. For further information please check out the Diocesan website.
- **Mike Smith** is now the Diocesan Christian Giving Co-Ordinator – happy to come out and visit parishes to give advice and support – Mike can be contacted on [Tel: 07840 260182](tel:07840260182) Email: [msmith@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:msmith@glosdioc.org.uk)
- **Framilode Riverside Retreats** – Monthly Quiet Days at Framilode Church - 10am – 3pm. £12 to include all refreshments and lunch. To find out more Tel: 01452 741410

**Closing Prayer** - There being no other business, the meeting closed with The Grace.