

1. **Welcome:** Revd Sue Murray, the Area Dean, warmly welcomed everyone to the last meeting of this Triennium, as elections will take place at this year's APCM's – particular welcome to our speaker Richard Witham, Deputy Leader of One Life. Unfortunately Rachel Howie is unwell and unable to join us this evening. A special welcome also to Revd Janet Turville from The Beacon Benefice to her first Deanery Synod meeting.
2. **Present/Apologies:** There were 40 Synod members present, as per the Register, with apologies received from: Margaret Sheather, Lay Chair (*at General Synod*), Revd Andrew Leach, Frances Watson, Frankie Marsh, Emma Dunn, & Andrew Pemberton.
3. **Prayer** – The meeting began with prayer led by Revd Liz Palin & Revd Steve Harrison.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising not already covered on the Agenda

5. **Deanery Strategic LIFE Plan** – Phase 1, the initial Mapping Meeting took place on 18th January at Lakefield School. Phase 2 – The Standing Committee will now look at our 'map' and consider the gaps between the vibrant gathering places and communities, and our current provision for ministry in the Deanery. This is the focal point of our work in creating an effective Deanery Plan – The Standing Committee are meeting again with Dana Delap on Thursday 27th February.

6. **Speaker – Mr Richard Witham, Deputy Leader of 'One Life' –**

Richard works for Scripture Union and is a National Sports Mission Leader. Originating from Liverpool, Richard now lives in Gloucester and is working for the Diocese for 2 days a week focusing on the 'OneLife' project. Developed from the Diocesan LIFE vision and responding to its four priorities (Leadership, Imagination, Faith and Engagement), OneLife is a pioneering network of sport and wellbeing centres, primarily engaging with children and young people, their families and young adults. They believe in the transformative power of sport and active lifestyles and in providing contexts through which the Christian faith can be explored, fullness of life experienced and new worshipping communities emerge. - working alongside PSALMS and the Sports Priority Group, but taking it to the next level. Community engagement through sport; there is more contact with children and young people through sporting activities than in any other aspect of the Diocese. A high proportion of young people and their families gather in sports activities every week - our challenge is how can we approach and engage with those 95% of people, especially the young, not currently connecting to church and the Christian faith. The Bishops Council are looking into ways we can explore and develop what it means to be 'church' which is not necessarily meeting on a Sunday morning.

(Updated briefing sheet and comprehensive Q&A's received from Richard following the meeting, copy attached for your information.)

A short time followed for initial questions, including:

- What is OneLife?
A pioneering network of sport and wellbeing, interwoven into all aspects of the shared life of a worshipping community. Primarily for children and young people and their families.
- How many are on the team and how do we replicate what you do in a sustainable way, and how will it affect any PSALMS relationship?
We are 1 of 6 pilot Diocese launching the scheme – Revd Tim Hastie-Smith is the lead on the project – work is ongoing as the roll-out develops – very aware of the need for it to be sustainable in the long term.
- How does sporting activity become worshipping?
New expressions of church/discipleship – Developing new groups of community, through the '7 spaces', each space not always a physical place or activity, but a space which we find ourselves together – See the seven steps in context on the attached sheet - creating centres of spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing, responding to the needs of society around us.

- What's in it for parents?
Community meal, hope, joy and light!
- What happens to existing churches that are in decline?
We are part of a whole picture and will work alongside and with existing churches – important that we are not setting up against someone else – This is about new people finding faith and exploring some new pioneer options to achieve this - we are tackling that question now and it will be earthed-out as we decide on locations. We 'hear the fear'!

Richard then talked through the 7 spaces in detail, outlining the meaning behind each of the steps.

Brief discussion followed on where PSALMS currently operates within the Deanery and the fact that you have to pay for their services – what about the places that need them most but can't afford it? Important that we link in with existing resources/projects that are already established and working well.

Richard closed by encouraging everyone to have conversations about how we can do more as a Diocese to look at what we do through the lenses of children and young people - OneLife is a new part of the church in the Diocese of Gloucester, it is a companion and partner of existing churches, not a competitor to it.

The AD thanked Richard for taking the time to come and speak to us – Richard stayed to the end of the meeting to take further questions – If you have anything further you would like to ask please contact Richard direct on: **01908 856071 Email: RichardJW@scriptureunion.org.uk**

(National Sports Mission Leader Scripture Union OneLife project team (The Diocese of Gloucester))

7. Reports

6.1 – [Diocesan Synod Meetings 2nd November 2019 and 1st February 2020](#) – as circulated.

Filling Clergy Vacancies - Any progress following the motion from Stroud that was debated at Diocesan Synod in November 2018? *No motion was passed at the last Diocese Synod meeting – further investigations to be made, to report back to our next meeting in October.*

6.2 - [Parish Share 2019 & 2020](#) – reports as circulated.

Contributions 2020 – There are a number of commitments still outstanding - please ensure that your pledges have been sent to the finance team as a matter of urgency – Parishes are encouraged to please keep to the promises made. *(Uplands & Slad are still seeking clarification of how their formula was reached).*

6.3 - **Deanery Office Funding** - Mike Lambert, Deanery Treasurer, gave a brief report on the D/O funding position, having circulated the Statement of Financial Activities for the Deanery for 2019 – A big thank-you to all our parishes for continuing to support the work of the Deanery Office and Sally our Administrator. Thanks to those parishes who contributed to The Door Illuminate Project – we have met our commitment of £19,000 and as you will have seen from the regular reports circulated, great work is being done! Chapter expenses marked with an asterisk were those initially paid out of the Deanery funds but later reimbursed by the Diocese through AD expenses – all other expenses were as expected and within budget. Budget for 2020 – we have only very recently received the parish share commitments from parishes in the Deanery and so have set the budget accordingly. With our clergy position in the Deanery now more settled, the contribution from the AD is expected to be less this year. Overall expenditure is only up by £100, with a contingency of £300, which hopefully will not be needed. For 2020 we are proposing to ask parishes for a contribution of 1.325% of the committed Parish Share to enable us to continue to fund the office. The usual request letter will be circulated to Treasurers shortly. **One item to note – if your parish pays directly to the Deanery Bank account, please be aware that we have a new account – details will be clearly shown in the letter to Treasurers.**

Mike proposed that the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Christine Pearce, and there were no votes against or abstentions so this was carried unanimously.

Looking at the proposed budget, a contribution of 1.325% suggested would give us £8,900. This is slightly more than last year as we carried forward a small surplus from the previous year and so were able to ask for slightly less last time.

As there were no questions from the floor, Mike Lambert proposed that we accept the suggested contribution 1.325% of the pledged Parish Share for 2020 – this proposal was seconded by Revd Liz Palin. There were no objections, with 3 abstentions, and so the proposal was therefore carried. The letter to Treasurers will go out shortly.

John Hunnisett wanted to thank the Deanery on behalf of the Retired Clergy for their annual meeting and supper that takes place in June – the gesture is very much appreciated by the active Retired Clergy.

8. Parish & Benefice Update

- **The Stroudwater Team** – a warm welcome from us all to the new Team Administrator Katie Moore.
- **The Bisley Benefice** – Revd Helen Caine continues to help out as Associate Priest until Easter 2020.
- **The Beacon Benefice** – Janet Turville is settling in well
- **The Stroud Team** – The Team Vicar vacancy process is underway
- **Brimscombe, Woodchester & Rodborough** – House for Duty vacancy ongoing.

9. Meeting Dates for 2020

Standing & Pastoral Committee 10am-12 noon in the Choir Vestry St Laurence Church	Deanery Synod all at 7.30 pm	Speaker/Topic
April 28th	<u>Wednesday May 20th</u> St Laurence Church, Stroud	Bishop Rachel Treweek & Revd Canon Dana Delap Deanery Strategic LIFE Plans
September 15th	<u>Wednesday October 7th</u> Cainscross Church Hall	Revd Canon Dr Sandra Millar Welcome initiative

10. Chair's Announcements

- **Deanery Synod and General Synod Elections take place this year**

Deanery Synod elections take place this year so you need to include this in the planning for your Annual Parochial Church Meeting and give some thought to who you might want to encourage to represent your parish in this way. We hope also that the Synod meetings have been interesting and useful enough for many of you to wish to continue in this role! Good representation from across the Deanery will be important as we take forward the Mission Planning for the coming ten years that we have just started to think about.

Lay members of Deanery Synod form the electorate for the Diocese's lay representatives on the Church of England's General Synod.

General Synod elections also take place this summer, hot on the heels of the election of the Deanery Synod representatives. The General Synod is effectively the parliament of the Church of England and the diocese currently has three clergy and four lay members in addition to the Bishop. It passes legislation that affects the church ranging from introducing new things like the highly controversial consecration of women as bishops to the more mundane updating of processes such as the revised Church Representation Rules. It also debates issues of current interest and motions that can be put forward by individuals or by dioceses, often promoted originally by Deaneries. So please:

- get your list of new Deanery lay members in to the Diocesan Office promptly so that they are on the electorate in good time
- think about whether you would like to stand for General Synod or who you might want to see representing you and encourage them to do so

Margaret Sheather

- **Revd Liz Palin** is being Commissioned as Assistant Area Dean on Sunday 23rd February, 6pm at St Mary's, Frampton – everyone is invited to come along and support Liz.
- **Reminders** – Flyers circulated on the tables:
 - [Framilode Quiet Days](#) – starting in March
 - [DAC Environmental Workshop](#) – 24th March 2020
 - [A Conversation with Saint Francis – 18th April 2020](#)
 - Open the Book Training on 9th March at Eastcombe Scout Hut, led by The Bible Society - £2 donation suggested. Check out their website for more details

11. AOB

Peter Hankins from Amberley – Concern that communication from the Diocese, particularly publicising events at the Cathedral is very poor. The Cathedral chapter are not good at circulating information out to parishes. Parish clergy need to be aware to spread the word down to parish level, displaying details on church noticeboards/weekly notices.

Information is available - You can sign up to receive the Diocesan monthly Newsletter by email – visit the Diocesan website, scroll to the bottom of the home screen where there is an option to 'subscribe to newsletters'

12. Closing Prayer – There being no other business, the meeting closed with prayer and The Grace