

1. **Welcome & Introduction** – Revd Sue Murray, Area Dean, warmly welcomed everyone to our Deanery Synod meeting, particularly first timers Sarah Haslam and Gill Martin. Thanks to Simon for organizing the refreshments. Sue confirmed that next month Coral Francis at Minchinhampton will be priested, and also Kim Trinder from the Bisley Benefice will become Deacon. (27 members attended the meeting, with Apologies received from: Kim Trinder, Phil Stick, Jacqueline Natt, Julian Elloway, Revd Coral Francis, Revd Howard Gilbert, Revd Kate Stacey, Revd John Thompson)
2. **Opening Prayer** – Revd Kate Stacey was unable to make the meeting at the last minute and so Revd Helen Hill led opening prayer.
3. **Minutes** - Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 16th February at Lakefield School, Frampton were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

- **Feedback from +Rachel's Deanery Visit** on 1st March has been very good – she very much enjoyed the variety of places and activities during the day and particularly the question and answer session and meeting lots of people in the evening.
 - **Eco Ambassador for the Deanery** – Revd Simon Howell may have someone lined up to take on this role on behalf of the Deanery.
4. **Deanery Strategic Plan** – *Introduction by the Lay Chair*

We have been working through a series of sessions with the Facilitator Canon Robert Jenkins with members of the Standing Committee and representatives from all the other Benefices in the Deanery. The Plan we have produced so far is a reflection of these extensive discussions, along with some of the ideas shared from the last Deanery Synod meeting. The purpose today is to give you a chance to look at what we have produced so far, from the four statements in our 'Vision' box diagram, to the extended points setting out our ideas and goals and how we might work together sharing tasks across parish boundaries. Please think about what makes you feel excited, what makes you feel 'we can do something with this'. The next stage will be to take it out to all the PCC's in the parishes – what does it need to look like to encourage parishes to engage and relate to it?

20 Minutes in small group discussions followed – members were asked to write down any feedback so that it can be typed up and shared in the meeting notes.

Please see the attached sheet of comments following the break-out discussions and written notes handed in.

The next formal step is a meeting next Wednesday with all Area Deans and Lay Chairs with the Archdeacon and Facilitator. We have to produce 2 sides of A4 to lay out where we are up to in the process and our general direction of travel. There is still work to be done.

A number of questions followed including:

Why do we need a Deanery? Does the Deanery really work, and is the Deanery the right unit to do this?

The Deanery actually has no legal power we can just influence and suggest, although it is set formally in the structure of the Diocese. Perhaps we can ask the Archdeacon next week!

'We are because we belong' – how do you achieve a sense of belonging (loneliness?), being part of something bigger

The Deanery is a mechanism to enable things to be shared/creating relationships and creating a sense of belonging and part of something much bigger. A tool between us and the 'top' where things filter down and are shared.

Is the document ready to go to PCC's? General feeling is that more work needs to be done.

If you have any further comments following the meeting, please send them in to Sally.

5. Green Shoots – reintroduced to share some of the good news stories happening around the Deanery:

Nailsworth

Drama Group set up in September last year for 2-6 year olds – wonderful Nativity produced at Christmas, also Mothering Sunday, involving families who would not normally come to church. Working on a performance of 'Decades of the Jubilee' for the Platinum Jubilee weekend with both adults and children – great fun and really exciting! Also a men's '**Time to Talk**' – 16 men now meet together regularly for conversation and to meet people, held the Parish Room from both church members and the wider community - really successful outreach.

Cloths swap – Saturday morning the church is open from 9am until 11am for people to bring along cloths (*labelled*) to be redistributed – planning to open the Parish Room for Ukrainian families to come along and have the opportunity to 'choose' cloths for themselves.

Woodchester, Brimscombe & Rodborough -

Cake Bar in church at Woodchester with the PTA from school and also the Playgroup from 2.45pm for parents of both – The school run it but the church are getting to know people they might never see - £200 raised today – fantastic outreach/relationship building exercise.

Fretherne Church – Monthly Family 'Drop-in'

2 months ago they decided to try to run a children's event as there are 10 young children living close to the Church. A monthly Family 'Drop in' is now successfully running with 17 children at the first event – Easter Sunday saw the most children in church for many years.

Amberley – Newcomers Party for new people moving into the village – choir/shop all areas of the village are represented – great opportunity to connect with families with young children.

6. Parish & Benefice update

- **Bisley Benefice** – House for Duty vacancy – to be considered under the Deanery Strategic Plan
- **The Stroud Team** – Revd James Turk licensed to the Team on 10th May
- **Brimscombe, Woodchester & Rodborough** – Associate Priest vacancy – not being pursued at the moment
- **The Beacon Benefice** – The AD confirmed that Revd Janet Turville is going to be retiring soon, no exact date known as yet.

(Comment from the floor - 'The flock' is not feeling looked after – not for 2 years and the fact that we are not able to advertise is very disappointing. Is there any way we can start the recruitment process?).

Not until she has formally retired – the process is out of our control at the moment but it is in hand and we are bound by Employment Law. As soon as we know any more we will let you know.

7. Reports

7.1 General Synod 7th – 11th February 2022 – Lay Chair report as circulated

7.2 Diocesan Synod – next meeting not until 13th July 2022

7.3 Parish Share 2022 – Report as circulated by Mike Lambert – In the first 3 months of 2022, 25% of the pledged PS has been received.

Deanery Administrator Function – Thank you to the 20 churches who have paid their share of the pledged Parish Share to support the Administrator – please remind your Treasurers if they have not made their contribution.

Quiz Night – Quiz Night fundraiser – do please get in touch with Mike direct if you are interested in holding a fundraising Quiz Night and would like some Quiz Masters!

Tel: 01453 764635 Email: mikeandtonilambert@gmail.com

8. Meeting Dates and venues for 2022 confirmed as:

Standing/Pastoral Com.10am-12 noon all at The Porch Room Minchinhampton	Deanery Synod all at 7.30 pm	Speaker/Topic
Tuesday 20th September	Wednesday 5th October Cainscross Church Hall	Living in Love & Faith Report on feedback due to be published in September

9. Chair's Announcements

- **Next meeting of Area Deans** – Wednesday 18th May 2022
- **Pilgrimage to The Holy Land - 12th to 21st September 2022**
Led by Revd Sue Murray – *If you are interested in finding out more, please email Sue and she can post you the information booklet: smurray123@btinternet.com*
Price around £2095 per person.

10. AOB

- **State funding of listed church buildings** - Alec Jeakins
Alec highlighted the main points from an article printed in the Guardian newspaper by Simon Jenkins regarding state funding of listed church buildings. Members were asked to consider the issues and if felt appropriate write to their MP – copy of a draft letter and the full text will be circulated from the office tomorrow. Please adapt the letter to suit your own context.
(Please see full report attached, circulated to Deanery Synod members).

11. Closing Prayer – there being no other business, the meeting closed with prayer led by Revd Caroline Bland