



Minutes of Winchester Deanery Synod

**Held Tuesday, 4th June 2013
at St. Cross, Winchester.**

The meeting opened at 19:30, following a picnic held in the Masters' Garden, for which the weather was amazingly good, being hot and sunny.

After a welcome from the Master of St Cross, Revd Reg Sweet and initial announcements by Simon Swindells, worship was led by the Priest in Charge of St. Faith, Fr Mark Birch.

Change in Deanery Area Dean

Revd Alan Gordon had completed his term as Area Dean. After consultation Bishop Peter had announced that new Area Dean would be Revd Paul Kennedy and the assistant Area Dean would be Revd Philip Cochrane.

Revd Alan Gordon was thanked by the Deanery Lay Chair, Simon Swindells, for all he had done as Area Dean over the last six years; not least amongst them the building of links with the church in Uganda; pastoral care of clergy; planning the future of the deanery and representing the Deanery within the Diocese. As a token of the Deanery's thanks, Alan was presented with a gift token and bunch of flowers for his wife.

Alan gave a spirited response and noted that this was a period of dynamic change for the church as a whole. We now live in a world where the influence of television is huge and that real life does not relate to the TV soaps.

The new Area Dean (Revd Paul Kennedy) and assistant Area Dean (Revd Philip Cochrane) were then commissioned by Archdeacon Michael. The new Area Dean then chaired the remainder of the meeting.

St. Cross and St. Faith

Fr Mark Birch, then spoke of the history of St. Cross and St Faith. St Cross started off as a private chapel around 900 years ago. For all that time Matins has been said at 10am each day. St. Cross has many excellent features, not least of which is its location near the river and the excellent buildings.

Next year it will get a new heating system and this year in August the tower will be under repair.

St. Faith's caters for all age groups in good numbers. (The second Sunday of each month is an all age Eucharist.) It has a very good choir. One goal of the church is to bring all ages together.

Deanery Accounts

Sheila Lees presented the Deanery accounts for the year to 31st March 2013. These were unanimously accepted as a fair and true record.

Sheila then proposed that the Deanery accounting year be changed to match the calendar year. This was accepted unanimously.

A further vote was taken on the proposal before the meeting to make the Deanery Synod subscription levied per member £27 for the period up to 31st December 2013. (This was effectively no change to current subscription, although it was indicated it may have to increase next year.) There were no votes cast against, or abstentions.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a fair and true record.

Mission Shaped Diocese

Bishop Tim had been due to attend and speak at the meeting, but unfortunately he had had to attend the House of Lords. The Archdeacon, Ven. Michael Harley stepped into his place and gave a presentations based on Bishop Tim's.

The Archdeacon spoke about becoming a mission shaped diocese, noting that Bishop Tim had referred to this at his enthronement in May 2012. Essentially this is Church lead mission that is re-discovering the mission of Jesus.

The Bishop had spoken of the '3Ps'. These being:-

- Passionate Personal Spirituality,
- Pioneering Faith Communities,
- Prophetic Global Citizens.

At the Diocesan Synod in June last year Bishop Tim drew attention to Acts 10:3 where Jesus' mission continues and considered a shared space giving an opportunity to help Gods' mission. Sharing helps. We have 196 parishes and they can feel isolated sometimes – but we are a community of parishes. Cultures change and we need to change as well.

Perhaps we could also refer to the '4Ds':

Describe
Dream
Design
Deliver

- and these relate to communications; finances; parishes and pioneers.

Either way the outcome is growing the kingdom of God.

The Archdeacon then referred to the many reviews now under way: the operations of Old Alresford Place, mission, ministry & discipleship, the role of the Diocesan Board of Finance, risk management, funeral fees, clergy removals and stipends. A revised Diocesan Handbook would be issued. He mentioned in particular the Genesis project, concerned with the theology of giving, Parish Share, new income streams and marketing. There had been changes in governance, there was a review of communications and a proposal for a third Archdeacon, to head up mission and discipleship. The Diocesan Synod, with others invited, would be meeting for supper at Wolvesey in June, preparatory to the Diocesan Conference at Swanwick in September..

The Archdeacon then took a few Questions. The role of chaplains was briefly discussed. It was noted that one of the Bishops priorities was religious education in schools - which we all need to agree to - and own it.

The Question was asked what consultations take place with other denominations and churches in Winchester. The Archdeacon replied that within Winchester there is 'Churches Together' and that there is much communication between the churches at all levels. Also the Night Church and the Street Pastors work together. Also Bishop Jonathan has an ecumenical portfolio.

The meeting finished with prayer at 9.30 pm.

Rob Smith
Deanery Synod Minutes Secretary
14th August 2013