

Minutes of Winchester Deanery Synod

Held Wednesday, 7th February 2013 at All Saints, East Winchester.

The meeting was attended by about 40 clergy and laity. Alan Gordon (the Rural Dean) presided. The meeting opened with a warm welcome, noting some recent additions to the Bishops Council.

The meeting opened at 19:35 with Compline worship which was led by Revd. Paul Kennedy, Vicar of All Saints who then went on to present briefly the changes made to the church building over recent years, including the addition of an inner room for meetings and community group use. It is a good thing to have people dropping in for lunch or breakfast before a service, creating a new part to the church as well as the traditional part which has been retained. While there is no longer a choir there is still music at all services. The re-ordering has thus worked well and has met many of the wishes of the 200 people who expressed a wish for change.

The Mission to Uganda.

Alan Gordon introduced the session on Uganda, mentioning the links with the University and how he had promoted microfinance, using savings and credit institutions, rather than banks, to promote business.

Brian Wakelin then introduced Josh and Thea, just back from an annual Youth Conference in Kisoro, who spoke of the work being done, including the construction of Faith House. Brian asked that students (and others up to age 35) should go to Uganda in their gap year.

Brian also mentioned that a team would be going to Myanmar.

Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the October Deanery Synod meeting were accepted as a true record.

The Winchester Deanery Plan.

Philip Cochrane spoke on this.

This was submitted to the November 2012 meeting of Northern Area Pastoral Committee but there was not enough time to fully discuss it so it was discussed at the January meeting instead. The response was positive in that it was felt that the Winchester Deanery is well along the road with the process. Thus it seems that we have a strategy for now that will lead to a plan later.

Communications: The Deanery is looking for a 'Publicist' at ground level and to liaise with Bishop Tim at Diocesan level, so this is not a 'top down' thing. Simon explained that email addresses could not be freely circulated but that the Deanery Secretary would endeavour to

forward any email on request to a named person. The new website has a "WHAT'S NEW" page has a drop down menu where you can sign up for this service and comment on meetings. It may be possible to set up a discussion forum on certain topics.

What is MAP? Well this is a continuous process – the key part is doing it , reviewing it and then repeating the cycle. Prayer helps. The vision should be re-stated every 28 days - as visions tend to 'leak'! A helicopter vision is good one to use with an eye to growth. While we may reach others at Baptisms and Funerals we need to talk of growth to make a difference to God's mission. We have many under 25's living in our parishes and we do need to reach them – and reach them quickly.

There is a course called "Leading your church into growth" which runs for 4 days, either consecutively or in one or two days at a time, suggested September 2013 for the Initial stage. It identifies what are the real issues; are some people uncomfortable with the culture of church e.g.the amount of reading? How many? Are mid week services growing? Looks at the MAP book and looks at MAP as a learning curve.

Women Bishops

There was some discussion of the situation re Women Bishops. The question was raised: What is the way forward now? The answer was the women can still flourish and are likely to be admitted to the episcopate in the future. It was still a huge privilege to serve God.

Written Deanery Reports.

Hugh noted that that the Bishops Council meeting was delayed due to the snow and will not now take place until next Monday so no report of that meeting was possible.

Finance Report: £277,000 has been received to date and thus 97% of share has been paid, which is 40% up on the 2010 figure and a £60k improvement on the previous year. Four parishes did not make their total payment. In summary we can say that, overall, there has been a very small improvement in the finances.

Winchester Working Groups.

Philip Cochrane is now the vice-chair of Churches together in Winchester. There is another group called Mission Winchester and these two groups may join together in the future. There were 192 hours of prayers in total offered during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Christian Charities in Winchester recently met for the first time. All these groups are seeking unity and wish to promote the good and the exciting in Christian life.

The meeting, which had started at 7.35 pm, finished with prayer at 9.21 pm.