

# Locking Deanery Synod

Minutes of a Meeting of Locking Deanery Synod held on Thursday 9 June 2005 at 7.00 pm at St James's Church, Winscombe

**PRESENT** There were fifty-nine members present and fifteen apologies for absence.

**WELCOME** The Revd. Mike Slade welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Synod and this was followed by a Service of Holy Communion.

## **APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

These were unanimously re-elected as follows:

**Lay Chairman** Mr John Rewse

**Hon. Treasurer** Mr Chris Wilkins

**Hon. Secretary** Mrs Dorothy Baldwin

**MINUTES** Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2005 were signed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**REFRESHMENTS** During refreshments, members divided into Local Ministry Groups to nominate one lay person and one clergy, to ensure that all Local Ministry Groups were represented on the Deanery Pastoral Committee. Nominations were also received for the Standing Committee.

## **APPOINTMENTS TO DEANERY PASTORAL COMMITTEE**

The Rural Dean, Lay Chairman, Hon. Secretary plus

**Central** The Revd. Neville Kent and Chris Harding

**East** The Revd. Matthew Thomson and David Colbourne, who was co-opted to the Synod

**South** The Revd. Bethan Guttridge and Jim Loring

**West** The Revd. Geoff Eales and Mrs Liz Coffin

## **APPOINTMENTS TO THE DEANERY STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Rural Dean, Lay Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, plus

**West** The Revd. Geoff Hobden

**South** The Revd. Chris Argles

**South** The Revd. Bernard Stevenson

**West** Mrs Sheila Berry

**Central** Mr Paul Elliott

**East** Mrs Kath Rycroft

**DIOCESAN SYNOD** There were no nominations to fill the casual vacancy on Diocesan Synod.

**GENERAL SYNOD REPORT** Mrs Ann Clarke gave a report on the General Synod meeting held 14-17 February 2005 where she urged members not to be influenced by newspaper headlines, which are always inaccurate or over-stated. Topics covered included Higher Education, Clergy Terms of Service, the Rochester Report, Weekday Services and the Windsor Report. Acknowledgement and praise were given to the retiring Archbishop of York. A copy of the report was circulated to members.

Mrs Clarke explained the last Synod meeting of the current General Synod takes place from 8-12 July, and that elections to the new, "slimmed-down" General Synod will take place in the autumn before the Queen opens the new Synod in November.

## **LOCKING DEANERY PLAN**

The Revd. John Abdy circulated a report from the Deanery Pastoral Committee which emphasises the opportunities inherent in the proposed Local Ministry Groups and commends the ongoing discussions in various parts of the Deanery to explore and maximise those opportunities. In particular; discussions taking place in the East Local Ministry Group; issues concerning Locking Castle and St. George's; and a strong desire to argue the case vigorously for a Church Army placement within the South Group. The location of parsonages within Central has been agreed, but until other plans are crystallised, it is felt that the recommendations offered to Synod on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004 should remain the appropriate basis for the Deanery Plan at the moment.

The Revd. Geoff Eales expressed his deep disappointment that no clergy were present to represent the Central Group, and announced that as a result of talks with Kewstoke, Milton and Kewstoke are pursuing links with West Group. There were no objections from the Revd. Natasha Schemanoff, Vicar of Kewstoke, and the change was welcomed by the Revd. Geoff Hobden, Vicar of Christ Church.

The Rural Dean explained that he had had a meeting with the Revd. Abdy, John Rewse Lay Chairman and clergy in the Central Group to which a Consultant recommended by the Diocese had been invited. The Consultant had produced a report which it is hoped will help them go forward and encourage lay people to offer ideas as they have much to offer. John Abdy acknowledged that there are many complex issues in this area, but also immense opportunities. There is a need to trust and listen to one another to find the right solutions.

Natasha felt very positive about the potential, particularly ecumenically, and is particularly encouraged by ecumenical partners joining together to pray and seek the way forward. She emphasised that our mission is to the world, and we need vision to look to the future rather than concentrating on the logistics.

Paul Elliott informed Synod that the Worle Parish Office has been established for eleven years and recently has been using volunteers to set up a Parish Office for Locking Castle based on the systems used in Worle. A fully functioning Parish Office will be open in Locking Castle Church Centre by September. This is a good example of how lay people can work together for the common good.

It was proposed by Paul Elliott and seconded by David Colbourne that the Locking Deanery Plan be amended to include Milton and Kewstoke in West Group with the addition of another clergy and parsonage, and that Central be reduced by a similar number. This was agreed with one abstention.

The Pastoral Committee will continue to encourage the development of the Pastoral Plan.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Deanery Secretary asked all Groups to inform her of any ecumenical partners who would like to be kept informed of Deanery Synod meetings and receive copies of Minutes. Any ecumenical links are welcome at Synod as observers.

#### **CHAT**

The Revd. Gill Putnam up-dated Synod on the CHAT initiative. The application to the Parish Development Fund for a grant has been successful and with most of the funding now in place, premises are being sought and advertising for a Chaplain is in hand. It is hoped that interviewing will take place on 5 July for the part-time Chaplain to begin in September. Gill urged everyone to continue with prayer support and that volunteers will offer themselves for training.

#### **MAKE POVERTY HISTORY**

The Revd. Bernard Stevenson reported that it is hoped that one million people will be in Edinburgh on 2<sup>nd</sup> July to coincide with the G8 Conference. On 18 June, a cycle ride has been organised to visit all the churches in the East Local Ministry Group, culminating in an encircling of St John's Church, Churchill at 4.00pm. On 25 June, Hutton is hosting a discussion when local politicians, including the Member of Parliament, who will answer questions on their views on MPH.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the grace.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 12 October 2005 – Locking Castle Church, 7.00 for 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 21 February 2006 – St John's Church, Weston-super-Mare 7.00 for 7.30pm**