

1. **Welcome:** Canon Margaret Sheather, the Lay Chair, warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly those members new to Deanery Synod, whose names were read out for them to make themselves known. Also, a particular welcome to Revd John Spiers, the new House for Duty priest at Amberley.
2. **Present/Apologies:** There were 40 Synod members present, as per the Register, with apologies received from: Elizabeth Haughton, Theresa Yates-Round, Jenny Tann, Sarah Rogaly, Graham Corinne Aldis, Emma Page, Wendy Hanvey, Revd Helen Bailey, Revd Mike Clark, Revd Deborah Curram, Revd Sandy Emery, Revd John Hunnisett.
3. **Prayer** – The meeting began with prayer led by Revd Peter Quinnell. This was Peter's last meeting as he will be retiring shortly and leaving with our very grateful thanks for all the work that he has done in the Deanery over the last few years.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on Wednesday 1st February 2017 at Horsley Church were accepted as a true and accurate record.
Matters arising – not already covered elsewhere on the Agenda: there were none.

5. **Speaker: Sam Cavender – Diocesan Communications Officer, specializing in Digital Media**

Sam joined the Diocese 7 months ago and one of the main challenges has been to streamline and connect what was a very fragmented and disjointed system, encompassing social and digital media to ultimately spread the good news to others as effectively as possible. Sam talked us through a timeline of progress with communication, from pre 1990 with just files on computers, right through to the birth of social media, with everything on-line and available. *(Sam's presentation slides are available on the Deanery Website under Synod Documents)*. 41% of 18-34 year olds are reached daily by 'Snapchat' – this instant on-line media is now part of our culture and cannot be ignored. We need to be open to explore and make best use of the possible option available to us, if we refuse to engage we risk making ourselves irrelevant. *Some concern was expressed about the possible isolation of modern methods of communication, and the risk of not really engaging face to face with people.*

Sam highlighted the 'A Church Near You' website, which is gradually being taken over by the Church of England – A new feature - you will soon be able to update the stored information directly on the site.

We looked more closely at the 'key tools' – the different types of social media available; Facebook, Snapchat, Tumbler, etc. and the typical age demographic more common to each.

Creating a Facebook page for your church can be a really good start – if you need advice or help do please contact the Diocese, who are very keen to provide practical help and advice to get you started.

There following a time for questions and answers

Everyone was encouraged to look at the new Diocesan website, which is now much more user-friendly - go to the Communications page: <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/communications> where there is a huge wealth of information and resources available. A big thank you to Sam for coming along to talk to us and giving us an insight into all the possibilities open to us.

6. **Life Vision Plan Statement for the Deanery** – Update by the Area Dean with Power point presentation *(Also available on the Deanery Website, under Deanery Synod tab)*

Thanks to all those who responded with feedback to help us begin to implement the Life Vision within our Deanery. From the comments received the Stroud Deanery Life Vision leaflet has been produced - Mike talked us through each section in detail, culminating in key areas highlighted in the feedback and covered under the specific headings in our Vision statement. A common thread suggest there is a real need for training and resourcing so that we can more effectively...

- Become more missional and Intentional as churches
- Grow Leaders and especially Young Leaders
- Prepare for greater Pastoral outreach within our communities
- Be creative in our contact with our schools

- Share our faith with confidence in different ways
- Grow our own faith and help others on the road of discipleship
- Share good practice between the churches of our Deanery.

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Therefore we propose the following:

- That we begin with a course on giving our churches a Mission focus (We shall be offering Mission Shaped Introduction to all the churches from the end of September for six weeks and encouraging each church to send two representatives).
- That we put together a group to plan resourcing and training sessions for the Deanery to cover (amongst other things!)
Growing Leaders – Pastoral Visitor Training – Creative ideas for schools and young people – Sharing our Faith – Discipleship
- That we include time at each Deanery Synod to highlight ‘good practice’ and learn to share it more.
- That we seek to build relationships beyond our own Parish and Benefice boundaries so that we can support one another and learn from one another.
- That we encourage one another (and our Parishes) to pray for each other regularly and week to establish regular local prayer events that are open to all.

Individual envelopes for every Deanery Synod member will be handed out at the end of the evening, including an individually addressed letter from Bishop Rachel, a copy of the Vision Leaflet, some prayer cards and information to book on to the Mission Shaped Intro Course in September. There will be spare copies of the leaflet for each member of your congregation. Everyone is encouraged to think at local level of how we can now make it a reality, that is the challenge for us now.

Song & Prayer followed (*Everyone was encouraged to look at the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ website which has prayer resources to become involved in the wave of prayer across the world*).

7. **Pastoral Re-organisation** update by the Area Dean

The process continues:

Revd John Spiers is now in post as House for Duty Priest at Amberley

- **The Stroudwater Team** – A Team Rector has been appointed – Revd Steve Harrison will be joining us from South Africa and is hoping to move in during June, with a Licensing date early in July. His family will be coming to join him later in the year – he has two daughters aged 16 & 18 who are currently finishing their school year. A second Team Vicar to work alongside him, along with Charles Minchin, will follow shortly afterwards
- **The Stroud Collaborate Team** – the vacancy is now on the website, with interviews set for the 19th July.
- **Bussage** – Dates for the process will be coming out soon.

8. **Reports**

8.1 **Diocesan Synod** on 4th February – Corinne Aldis reported:

Two Main issues discussed

Safeguarding - +R highlighted the importance of safeguarding and is very strong on this issue. A lot of work has gone on at Diocesan level to ensure that systems are in place to help parishes to deal with issues if they arise. It is vitally important for each parish to take it seriously and up to all of us to be aware.

Human Sexuality - +Rachel responded to the Bishops report that came out of General Synod (*Copy available on the Diocesan Website - very helpful*). Margaret Sheather has been involved in looking at how parishes can take part in the shared discussions.

Three different people talked to the meeting, with three very different views – very moving and personal stores. Ultimately we all need to listen to each other, learn from one another and be able to respect each other’s views.

Finance Report - +Rachel again reminded us that Parish Share is not about ‘paying’ but is about ‘giving’ and will ensure that the Life Vision can become a reality across the Diocese.

8.2 Parish Share - Margaret Sheather confirmed that we receive regular reports from the Diocese on where we are with parish Share. Commitments from the parishes across the Deanery leave us in a rather better position than we might have feared but we are still looking at a £20k gap between what we have been asked to give and what we have committed to pay. Please do to look carefully at how you can continue to give so that by the end of the year we can be as close as possible to the targets set.

Open Deanery Meeting on Parish Share – Wednesday 26th July, 7.30pm at St Laurence in Stroud – The Finance Team from the Diocesan office and Archdeacon Jackie will be coming, at the request of Synod members, to explain how PS is calculated, why we need it, what its purpose is and how it is spent – do please come along to listen to the discussions. If you have a particular question you would like answered, **let us have it in advance** so that we can ensure that queries are answered in full on the night, so that when the figures come out we are in a better position to understand the whole Parish Share issue. **Please email your questions to Margaret at: m.sheather@btinternet.com**

8.3. Deanery Office Funding – Mile Lambert, Interim Deanery Treasurer

For the benefit of new members, Mike outlined the role of Sally the Deanery Administrator, who works 13.5 hours per week in the Deanery Office, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am to 2pm. helping to co-ordinate the smooth running of the Deanery and also to provide admin support to the Area Dean with his many responsibilities. The office is funded by the parishes of the Deanery, who each pay a small percentage, 1.25% this year, of their pledged Parish Share. Thank-you to all those parishes who have paid their contribution for this year (2/3rds of parishes have now paid). For those parishes still to pay, we would be grateful if you could please send in your contributions as soon as possible to ensure that we have sufficient funding to run the office to the end of the year.

Meeting Dates for 2017

Standing/Pastoral Com.10am-12 noon all at The Church Office, Stroud	Deanery Synod all at 7.30 pm	Speaker/Topic
Tuesday 19th September	Wednesday 4th October at Cainscross Church Hall	Rob French <i>Director of Sports Ministry for PSALMS</i>

9. Chair’s Announcements

Diocesan Stipends Fund – On the 22nd June all Area Deans & Lay Chairs will meet with +Rachel and the Chair of the DBF to decide how the DSF should be divided next year. This year the funds were decided on a pro-rata basis but in 2018 the £160k pot will be distributed to areas with the greatest need. We have all been advised to submit a funding ‘bid’ limited to 2 sides of A4, which we have done. When we meet on the 22nd all the bids will be considered and an informed decision will be made. We will let you know what the decision is in due course.

10. AOB

October Synod – We will be looking for people interested in being part of the group that will plan training and resourcing for the Deanery.

11. Closing Prayer - There being no other business, the meeting closed with The Grace.

Please ensure that your Benefice Box is taken back to your parishes and distributed to those Deanery Synod members not at the meeting this evening.