

STROUD DEANERY SYNOD
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 14th October 2015, 7.30pm
at Cainscross Church Hall

1. **Welcome:** The Lay Chair, Margaret Sheather, warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly our Speaker Mr Duncan Munro from the Diocesan Development Fund and newly elected Deanery Synod representative for Amberley Simon Barker. Also a warm welcome to Revd Mike Clark recently appointed to Bussage. We were informed last week that unfortunately Helen Taylor from the Parish Giving Scheme is now unable to make this evening, so her presentation will be postponed for a future meeting.
2. **Present/Apologies:** There were 44 Synod members present, as per the Register, with apologies received from: Revd Helen Bailey, Revd Peter Francis, Revd Brian Ludlow, Revd Mathew Page, Revd Peter Quinnell, Revd Anne Spargo, Mrs Theresa Yates-Round, Mrs Jill Brown, Prof Jenny Tann, Mrs Valerie Heard, Mrs Ann Greaves, Mr Mike Campbell, Mr John Swann, Mr David Groom, Dr David Swinson, Mr Steve Harrison, Mrs Lydia Savage, Mr Graham Collins, Mrs Carolyn Highway.
3. **Prayer** – The meeting began with prayer led by Revd Malcolm King, Area Dean.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting** held on Wednesday 3rd June at St Laurence Church, Stroud were accepted as a true & accurate record; one minor alteration the prayers were led by Revd Mike *Smith*, not *Holloway*.
Matters arising, there were none.
5. **Speaker: Mr Duncan Munro – Presentation on the new Diocesan Development Fund.**
Planning to manage our financial affairs in the future and working to support parishes and organisation across the Diocese. Duncan began by giving us a brief history of his background, from being ordained in 1976, his wide-ranging managerial experience in industry and his many roles for grant making trusts, including his Directorship of the Robertson Trust.

Where has the Development Fund come from:

Following the decision to close Glenfall House, +Michael set up a Review Group to consider how to use the funds that would be realized from the sale. Agreed the best use would be to facilitate grass-roots projects across the Diocese – The Development Fund was set up. Anticipated funds following the eventual sale of GH c. £2.5-3 million, + existing Development Fund c £1 million, + profits from Good & Faithful Servant, the Diocesan property development company. Monies that should be available: Year 1 = £200,000, Year 2 = £300,000 and then £400,000 for the balance for 10 years.

Responsibility for the Fund – Semi-independent body within the umbrella of the Diocesan Board of Finance. Responsibility for running the Fund delegated to a board of Stewards, who are supported by a part-time Secretary and a voluntary team of assessors. The aim is to replicate best practice in grant making without establishing a separate Trust. The Board report back annually to the Bishops Council.

Funding Priorities – Spirituality, Growing the Church, Serving the Common Good, in partnership with other bodies, encouraging initiatives which enable church buildings to be used by the wider community.

When will grants become available – 9 Stewards have been recruited, based on skills and experience and chaired by +Martyn. An Away Day was held recently to establish an initial set of guidelines and the application process. Meetings will happen bi-monthly from November to review applications.

Additional Potential Funders – Mission Grant Fund (Up to £3000), Sylvanus Lysons Charity, Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, D.G. Albright Charitable Trust. Participants in the Christian Funders Forum include: Childs Charitable Trust, Culham St Gabriel's Trust, Henry Smith Charity, etc (*Full presentation notes circulated following the meeting*).

How the Trust will work – A Catalyst: encouraging innovative & transformational projects;

A Pollinator: cross-fertilising ideas & best practice; **A value investor:** looking for a regular dividend stream (outcomes); **A growth investor:** looking for longer-term growth (impact). The 'Project Staircase' – 'prayerful, professional, relational, accountable' and the points to consider at each stage of the process. The team will be on hand to offer help and advice in the process of developing a potential project.

What next – The Fund would like to see at least 2 initial projects from each of the 9 Deaneries across the Diocese. Application guidelines will be available shortly and will be available from the Diocesan Website and monthly bulletins. Contact the Secretary: dmunro@glosdioc.org.uk if you would like to express an interest or discuss a particular project you have in mind.

The slides from this evening's presentation will be circulated within the next few days from the Deanery Office.

There followed a time of questions and small group discussions on 4 particular areas to encourage discussion and develop thoughts.

The Lay Chair thanked Duncan for coming along and giving us a great introduction to the work of the Trust.

Coffee break for 15 mins

6. Journeying Together DAP – 'Green Shoots' connected to our Plan

Revd Mike Smith, Nailsworth – Mike wanted to share two particular points:

They are beginning to understand that church and buildings are not synonymous, and are now trying to focus more toward 'our community'. They have recently created a Mission and Outreach Committee, completely separate from the PCC, made up of members from local associations/people outside the confines of the church building, giving a whole new look to 'outreach' and the whole experience has been very liberating!

Talk to your ecumenical partners – how can we work together within our community. Think radically, open your minds to the possibilities, be brave and think outside the box!

7. Pastoral Re-Organisation – West of Stroud Deanery Review paper from Archdeacon Jackie circulated on seats (*See attached*). The Area Dean confirmed that the Deanery Pastoral Committee have been looking at this area for possible further pastoral re-organisation. Archdeacon Jackie would like to have a full review of that area. The paper sets out what she is looking to do, the membership of the Review Group, the Methodology, the process to be followed, and the predicted timescale. The review is to happen as quickly as possible. The Area Dean confirmed that we want to hear the views of the parishes concerned as part of that process. The primary driver is not finance but missions and ministry and how the parishes could best be grouped together to achieve this. As a Deanery we are not covering the cost of our clergy. There is a minimum number of clergy required to deliver ministry in our Deanery and the Diocese have been advised that we feel we have reached that level. The question is where do we place them?

By the next Deanery Synod meeting we hope that discussions within the parishes concerned will have taken place.

8. Parish Share

8.1 Update Parish Share Scheme 2016 – Parish Treasurers will be receiving in the next few days the Parish Share allocations for next year, by Benefice. If you want the breakdown parish by parish we can supply these. We have requested briefing notes to support the figures, but these have still not been forthcoming from the Diocese, following further discussions at Diocesan level. As soon as they are received they will be circulated. Once we have all the information, would it be helpful to convene a meeting for Treasurers to give them an opportunity to raise any particular concerns. General agreement that this would be a very good idea, possibly for Treasurers and Churchwardens.

From the most recent update on this year's Parish Share figures issued by the Diocese, we as a Deanery look to be on track to meet our commitments. A letter went out recently to Treasurers asking if parishes could foresee any difficulties fulfilling this year's commitments to let us know asap. Of 39 parishes only 6 replied, so we are assuming the other 33 are doing fine!

8.2 Diocesan Synod Meeting 3rd October – Brief notes from the meeting and +R's address from the Lay Chair attached. There is a link on the Diocesan website to +R's full address.

8.3 Deanery Office Funding – Projected Statement of Financial Activities to 31st December 2015 circulated on seats (*Copy attached*). The Area Dean gave a heart-felt 'thank you' to Mike Lambert, who has agreed to act as Interim Deanery Treasurer for the time being. Of the 39 parishes in the Deanery, 38 contributed to the Deanery Office funding for this year, and we thank you all for your continued support of the office. Once the PS allocations are confirmed we will have a clearer picture, but currently it is the intention to continue funding the office with 1.2% of the pledged PS from each parish. With the introduction of the new Parish Share scheme and the current vacancies in the Deanery, increased workload continues to be passed down from to Deanery level. The support of Sally in the office is an invaluable resource in helping the Area Dean manage these extra responsibilities.

9. Deanery Services

- Wednesday 6th January – HC Service with Bishop Rachel, 7.30pm at St Laurence Church, Stroud, as part of her 3 days Deanery visit.
- Thursday 5th May – Deanery Ascension Day Service, 7.30pm at St Laurence Church, Stroud.

10. Meeting Dates for 2016

Standing/Pastoral Committee 10am-12 noon all at The Vicarage, Stroud	Deanery Synod all at 7.30 pm	Speaker/Topic
February 2nd 3.30pm	February 17th <u>Lakefield School, Frampton</u>	Revd Helen Bailey Spiritual Nurturing & Development
May 24 th Upstairs Lounge St Laurence Church Hall	June 8th <u>St Laurence Church, Stroud</u>	TBC
September 20th	October 5th TBC	TBC

11. Chair's Announcements

- **General Synod Elections** – confirmation of the four lay members elected from our Diocese to serve on General Synod for a term of 5 years: Margaret Sheather, Corinne Aldis, William Belcher, Martin Kingston.
- **Safeguarding** - Area Deans have been asked to remind everyone about the importance of Safeguarding. PCC's are going to be asked to return their checklists to ensure that they are following the guidelines. Responsibility rests with parochial clergy to ensure that people who should be disclosed are and it is in fact a disciplinary matter if these steps are not taken. Visiting Clergy taking services must hold a current Permission to Officiate certificate in this Diocese. For particular 'one-offs' permission of the Incumbent and the Bishop is required.
- Deanery Website – We are currently having the Deanery website re-vamped and hopefully this will be finished shortly, to enable us to make better use of this resource.
- New publication – Guidelines for Professional Conduct of Clergy. The nearest we can get to a job description, a very useful tool and clergy are urged to have a copy.
- Peggy & Brian Ludlow – This will be their last Synod before their move to Australia. Please take our love and best wishes on this big adventure. Thank you for your contributions to the life of this place. Go with every joy and don't forget to wear a hat!
- Refugee Crisis – We have been asked what the Church is doing about the refugee crisis – what is the Church's line because there appears to have been silence? Cainscross are raising money to provide tents in France. Mathew Page has been working with the Green Party and 38 Degrees to raise awareness across the area. There is also a group working in Nailsworth. For more information on the Diocesan response please contact Revd Cate Williams, Diocesan Mission & Evangelism Officer on 01452 835543, Email: cwilliams@glosdioc.org.uk. Bishop Rachel has made a statement but unfortunately it has not been published in the press, including consideration of the religious requirements and post-traumatic stress issues.

There being no other business the meeting closed with The Grace.