

AMPTHILL AND SHEFFORD DEANERY SYNOD
Making Mission Matter
Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7.30pm in Silsoe Church

1. Opening Prayer

Lynda Klimas chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.
Rev David Payne led an opening prayer for the Deanery.

2. Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Clergy:

Revd Andrew Johnson	<i>Barton le Clay, Higham Gobian, Hexton</i>
Revd Canon Nigel Washington	<i>Harlington, Westoning, Tingrith</i>
Revd. Linda Washington	<i>Harlington, Westoning, Tingrith</i>
Revd Canon Stephen Nuth	<i>Woburn, Eversholt, Milton Bryan, Battlesden, Potsgrove</i>
Revd Richard Winslade	<i>Gravenhurst, Shillington and Stondon</i>
Revd Roni Goodman	<i>Meppershall & Shefford</i>
Revd Diana Young	<i>Woburn Sands</i>

Laity:

Rosemary Ilett	<i>Clophill</i>
Liz Allen	<i>Shillington, Gravenhurst</i>
Tim Watson	<i>Shillington, Gravenhurst</i>
Carol Watts	<i>Haynes</i>
David Golding	<i>Flitwick</i>
Keith Callard	<i>Meppershall</i>
Martyn Gates	<i>Treasurer and Diocesan Rep</i>
Tony Howells	<i>Hexton</i>
Elizabeth Overfield	<i>Arlesey</i>
Peter Topley	<i>Clifton</i>
Alison Miller	<i>Barton le Clay</i>
Tony Brown	<i>Flitwick</i>

PRESENT

Chair:	Revd Canon Lynda Klimas, Rural Dean	<i>Maulden</i>
	Revd Caren Topley, Assistant Rural Dean	<i>Clifton, Southill</i>
Lay Chair:	Mr David Young	<i>Diocesan Synod and Ampthill</i>
Secretary:	Revd Anne Barker	

Clergy:

Revd Shaun Speller	<i>Henlow, Langford</i>
Revd David Payne	<i>Silsoe, Pulloxhill, Flitton</i>
Revd Dominic Holroyd-Thomas	<i>Ampthill, Millbrook, Steppingley</i>

Laity:

Christopher Hodges	<i>Ampthill</i>		
Gill Merrick	<i>Barton le Clay</i>	Julia Haigh	<i>Shefford</i>
Ruth Barton	<i>Battlesdon, Potsgrove</i>	Pat Goulding	<i>Shefford</i>
Sue Silver	<i>Campton</i>	Alan Aldridge	<i>Silsoe</i>
Anne Gordon	<i>Campton</i>	Stella Brooks	<i>Steppingley</i>
Ruth Gray	<i>Clifton</i>	Ruth Cullinan	<i>Woburn Sands</i>
David Watson	<i>Flitwick</i>	Wendy Adern	<i>Woburn Sands</i>
Nick Crago	<i>Harlington</i>	Robert Adern	<i>Woburn Sands</i>
Suzanne Spence	<i>Harlington</i>		
Joanna Daye	<i>Higham Gobian</i>		
Bob Vidler	<i>Langford</i>		
Marjorie Horrell	<i>Maulden</i>		
Christine Cullinford	<i>Maulden</i>		
Christopher Valentine	<i>Meppershall</i>		

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2021

The minutes of 6th July 2021 were unanimously approved as correct, and duly signed by Lynda Klimas

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Guest Speaker

David Young welcomed **Keith Williams**, the Lay Chair of Sharnbrook Deanery, to speak on 'GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE'.

The organisation was previously known as the Gideons UK. Keith represents the North Bedford Branch, and became involved from the time he used a Bible which had been placed in an hotel, and God's challenge to him to make a commitment. His involvement with the Gideons gradually deepened. All members must belong to a Church.

The Gideons began in 1900, and was led by men. In 2019 the men wanted to include women, so Gideons UK separated from Gideons International and adopted the name of Good News for Everyone, although they are open to considering a different name. The new emblem is an open Bible. In 2018 Gideons International distributed 19million Bibles across the world, about 1million of which were in the UK. 25% of people come to faith by reading the Bible. 430,000 Bibles were given out in schools and colleges last year. The effects of this may occur years ahead, but the seeds have been sown. Keith asked for prayers to get into schools more, now that Covid is not so limiting as last year.

Bibles are left in Hotels, prisons, hospitals, armed services, at festivals and in the streets. Some people are abusive, others are thankful and eager. The office receives testimonies every day. There are large print versions. We are encouraged to pray for the organisation, and donations are always welcome.

David Young thanks Keith for his talk.

6. Treasurer's report

Martyn Gates sent his apologies, but the summary sheets will be sent with the minutes. The balance is £6271.96. There has been no income. There was £75 expenditure, and some uncashed cheques. No money has been spent on venues due to there been Zoom meetings only. Pat Golding from Shefford asked if we could return some money to the Diocese due to their financial hardship. This isn't advisable, as youth work and other activities could resume in the foreseeable future as Covid restrictions gradually ease. The thought was raised that maybe any extra money could be donated to 'Good News for Everyone'.

7. Other Reports

Deanery and Lay Chair Report: Most of the parishes have been covered with the Archdeacon's inspections. It proved a very positive experience, and people were pleased to welcome Lynda Klimas, Caren Topley, and David Young, as they offered a 'light touch' to encourage and say 'Thank you' for their support during this difficult time with Covid. A number of parishes are finding it hard to appoint treasurers, Church Wardens and safeguarding officers.

Next year we will need to look at the Share Factor.

Deanery Review: Phase I has been implemented. Campton, Clophill and Haynes are doing well in their new Benefice arrangements.

We haven't got to the 2nd phase. Revd. Carrie Steer is to be appointed as a Curate in Training at Aspley Guise, with Revd Diana Young as the training Incumbent This is a stop gap arrangement. Carrie is to be licensed on 22nd November 2021.

8. Diocesan Synod

David Young said the venue was well ventilated and freezing. Everyone had had a lateral flow test beforehand. It was good to return to face to face meetings. Parish Share receipts were reduced, and the shortfall this year is £0.5 million. St Albans is better off than many other Dioceses. The Diocese is waiting until after Christmas to see how the finances are.

The number of curates is back up to 14, which is a better situation. Revd Andrea Malfei is to be installed tonight (10th November) in Kempston.

The Lambeth Conference will take place in mid-July next year.

Susan Pope gave a very good retirement speech.

Becky Mynett was elected as a General Synod Rep.

1 clergy and 3 lay people need to be elected onto the Diocesan Synod from this Deanery, and the invitation is offered to anyone who would like to stand. The meetings occur on Saturday mornings 3 times a year.

9. Parish Vacancies

Thanks was given to Revd. David Payne for his work in the Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton Benefice, and he was wished well in his retirement, beginning on 21st November 2021.

Husborne Crawley and Ridgemont - Husborne Crawley are doing well with keen members, who organise services for special occasions. There aren't as many at Ridgemont who have a church background, but they're having monthly services. The finances are struggling.

Flitwick is being advertised, and there is apparently good interest. The interview will be held on 1st December.

Revd. Geoffrey Boulton has indicated his desire to retire next Summer, but this has not been formally announced.

10. Deanery Standing Committee Rep.

An appointment is needed from one of the Laity, preferably from the Shefford end of the Deanery

11. News from the parishes

BARTON LE CLAY; BATTLEDEN & POTSGROVE. Reports will be sent with the minutes

12. Any other business

Lynda thanked Silsoe Church for their hospitality and refreshments.

13. Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 1st March 2022 at Clifton;

Speaker Will Gibbs on Inclusivity

Standing Committee 1st February 2022 by Zoom