

**Joint meeting of the Cowley and Oxford Deaneries  
University Church Of St Mary  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Attendances signed:**

Sheila Allcock  
Margreet Armitstead  
Ben Baker  
Geoff Bayliss  
Gemma Beesley  
Heather Carter  
Hannah Cartwright  
Nicholaj Christensen  
Maureen Davis

Skye Denno  
Nick Dewey  
Wulf Forrester-Barker  
Rob Gilbert  
Sister Catherine Harvey  
Tim Howles  
Natascha Huggett  
Beverley Humberstone  
Trevor Jones

David Knight  
Ed Ling  
Diane Mason  
Shemil Mathew  
Darren McFarland  
Stephen Michael  
Margaret Norman  
Jayne Ozanne  
Millius Palaywia

Tony Phelan  
James Plunkett  
Penny Powell  
Philip Ritchie  
Mariam Schilling  
Blanche Stiff  
Felicity Wallendszus  
Bethan Willis  
Christine Woodman

**Apologies:**

Flora Alexander  
Hubert Allen

Elaine Bardwell  
Eric Bossward

Rachel Gibson  
Philip Lockley

Andrew McKearney  
Patricia Michael

Area Dean: Revd Canon Geoff Bayliss  
Lay Chair: Dr Tony Phelan  
Minutes recorded by Angela Cooper

Time	Item	Actions
19:50	1	The Oxford Area Dean opened the meeting, extending a warm welcome to both the Cowley and Oxford Deaneries. Worship followed led by the Chaplin of the University Church, as John Henry Newman was soon to be canonised the worship reflected his ministry. The Oxford Area Dean reminded Synod members to feedback from the meeting to their parishes.
20:04	2	<p><b>Vocations and the Personal Discipleship Plan(PDP) presentation by: Revd Caroline Windley- Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Revd Tina Molyneux- Discipleship Enabler</b></p> <p>Revd Caroline Windley started the presentation, giving the background to the work the DDO had been doing on Vocations and the Personal Discipleship Plan.</p> <p>In 2016 the General Synod was asked to agree to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase vocations to ordained ministry by 50%</li> <li>• Increase the number of younger ordinands</li> <li>• Create a new funding formula for funding ordination training</li> <li>• Initiate Christian Vision working groups and fresh expression of worship.</li> </ul> <p>In 2017 Bishop Steven started the Common Vision Process in Oxford and the Setting God's People Free Report was undertaken, this focussed on the vocation of Lay People and equipping them to serve.</p> <p>The Church also recognised there is a need to increase diversity within the church and has been proactive in attempting to increase the number of BAME, women and people from a less socially advantaged background being ordained.</p> <p>A survey had been conducted and it found that a large percentage of the Anglicans felt that their church did not equip people well for life in today's world, at home, work or elsewhere and that there was little support to help people discover their giftings and callings.</p> <p>The Personal Discipleship plan (PDP) was created in response to this and was piloted to a diverse group of people, the results of these pilots show that the confidence of those taking part in the pilot increased from 50% to 100% in just 6 months.</p> <p>There needs to be a shift away from the mentality of what can you do for the church to how can the church equip you to fully embrace and live out God's call on your life.</p> <p>A vocation is not limited to just ordained ministry, God calls each one of us to live for him in whatever place or role we find ourselves in and all callings are equal. A PDP is an accompanied faith journey that you will take with a local minister or mentor that explores six core questions that discern what God is doing in your life and what you might be called to next. The objective is to see the whole of God's people equipped to live out the good news of Jesus in every part of life and the plan is able to help with this.</p> <p>Further information and resources are available on the Oxford Diocese website.</p> <p>There is a need for more trained Vocations Advisors in the Deaneries, those present were asked to contact their Area Deans or the DDO team directly if they would like further information about what this would entail.</p> <p>There were a number of leaflets available that those present were invited to take.</p> <p>The Oxford Area Dean thanked the team for the presentation and invited any questions:</p>

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		<p>One member of Oxford Synod felt that it might be more helpful if people could undertake these plans with people outside their own parishes.</p> <p>Answer- There are a number of vocations advisors in the deaneries who would be able to help find someone suitable with whom a PDP could be completed with.</p> <p>Jayne Ozanne- thanked the team for their presentation however she had felt that there needs to be more honesty about the reality of the calling to Christian Ministry for those in the gay and lesbian community. The Church didn't allow those within a same sex marriage to be ordained and therefore this excluded a whole group of people from following their calling.</p> <p>Answer- it is possible to become ordained if you are in a civil partnership but not a same-sex marriage, they recognised that this is a painful issue for many.</p> <p>Tony Phelan- How, within the framework of the PDP, would you be able to address this issue of Christian ministry and calling with Gay and Lesbian people?</p> <p>Answer- This was not something that had been directly asked in the pilots of the PDP, the overriding message is that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image and the church is fully inclusive of all people.</p> <p>There were no further questions.</p>	
	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b></p> <p><b>3.2</b></p>	<p><b>News and updates from Parishes.</b></p> <p><b>Littlemore-</b>Margreet Armitstead shared that the phase 1 building work had started at the church on Monday and that by Christmas they should have a toilet.</p> <p><b>Oxford Area Dean-</b> Will Donaldson shared that this would be his last meeting as Oxford Area Dean, as he was moving on to a new role within the Diocese as Director of New Congregations.</p> <p>The Cowley Area Dean and Oxford Deanery thanked Will for all his hard work and gave their good wishes and prayers for his new role.</p>	
	<p><b>4.</b></p> <p><b>4.1</b></p>	<p><b>AOB.</b></p> <p><b>Oxford Area Conference and Cowley Deanery Vision Exploration Afternoon</b></p> <p>The Cowley Area Dean reminded Synod that the above mentioned meetings were taking place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, the Bishop would be leading the morning. The event was nearly at capacity, anyone wishing to attend should email <a href="mailto:cowleyareadean@btinternet.com">cowleyareadean@btinternet.com</a> as soon as possible.</p>	
20:52	5.	<p>The Cowley Area Dean closed the meeting in prayer.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20:54</p>	
		<p>The Oxford and Cowley Deaneries separated to discuss their own deanery business.</p>	
20:58		<p><b>Cowley Deanery Business</b></p> <p><b>In the light of the Oxford Diocese's commitment to becoming a Christlike Church that is courageous, compassionate and contemplative we ask that the Oxford Diocesan Synod:</b></p> <p><b>i) recognise the significant level of inequality that exists across the diocese that enables some parishes to have churches that are "fit for purpose" whilst other parishes struggle to provide even the most basic of facilities such as running water, and</b></p> <p><b>ii) commission a Working Group that will propose how best to provide urgent practical support and funding to those parishes that are most in need of basic facilities so as to enable them to fulfil their mission.</b></p> <p>The above proposal had been circulated via email prior to the meeting, a paper copy was circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>The Area Dean opened this section of the meeting, Jayne Ozanne was to introduce and explain the background to the motion, debate would follow and the intention was, as indicated when the motion had been circulated prior to the meeting, that a vote would be taken at the end.</p> <p>Jayne Ozanne: Fully endorsed and supported this motion and went on to explain: the motion had intentionally been split into two parts when it had been drafted, the intention behind this was that when the proposal when to the Diocesan Synod for debate it was possible that they may endorse one part of the proposal and not the other.</p> <p>The first part of the proposal asked for the significant level of inequality across the Diocese to be recognised.</p> <p>The Second part of the proposal outlined what could be done to help start to address the inequality.</p>	

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	<p>The For Richer For Poorer Report commissioned by the Diocese in 2017 had found that there was increasing inequality across the Diocese and that poverty was becoming more hidden. However, the Diocese failed to apply these findings to church life and in doing so failed to understand the problem that poorer churches do not have adequate “equipment/ resources” to “fish” with. Mission requires a fully functioning church and many churches are still without even basic facilities, the focus of these parishes often has to be trying to make their buildings fit for purpose before they can even start to focus on mission. Mission is also somewhat limited as to the building/facilities they have available. The Motion asks the Diocese to accept the inequality exists and is impacting church life and mission and asks them to put into place a system that would be fairer to these parishes. The same subject had been discussed at Bishops Council, although it had been dropped before any action had been taken, this motion would remind them that this is still very much a problem for many parishes and a solution needs to be found.</p> <p>The Area Dean added that he was very supportive of this motion, in order to solve a problem the problem needs to be known and once known, resources committed to solve the problem.</p> <p>A time of debate followed:</p> <p><b>Millius Palaywia</b>- was supportive of the proposal but felt that it would be better to redraft the first part in language that would be more temperate- suggested changes- enables to recognise and fit for purpose to be more clearly defined.</p> <p>This was discussed-it was concluded that there had been enough time prior to the meeting for these amendments to be suggested, as they had not it was decided no changes would be made to the wording of the motion.</p> <p><b>Gemma Beesley</b> queried if the phrase “fit for purpose” was about buildings or did it include people? A church might be well equipped but have no people to run it.</p> <p><b>Jayne Ozanne</b>- this motion was specifically about the church buildings being fit for purpose.</p> <p><b>Heather Carter</b> asked for clarity about the division of the parish share. The current formula, as adopted 3 years ago, meant that wealthier parishes were paying more to support the poorer parishes and after paying a larger parish share they might not have the funds to undertake their own mission.</p> <p><b>Jayne Ozanne</b> The new formula for the parish share, as agreed 3 years ago, works on the whole. However, the Cowley Deanery is unfairly disadvantaged as it has a larger number of poorer parishes, the Diocese do have reserve funds, which they need to be challenged to release. These funds could be used to ensure that all parishes had buildings that were “fit for purpose”, as a Deanery Synod it is up to us to ask these questions.</p> <p>After the period of debate, Jayne Ozanne proposed that the Cowley Deanery Synod approve the motion enabling it to be sent to the Diocesan Synod for debate at its next meeting, Geoff Bayliss, Cowley Area Dean seconded this.</p> <p>A vote was taken.</p> <p>The results of the vote are as follows:  Abstentions: 0  Against: 0  In favour: 36</p> <p>The motion was unanimously approved by the members of the Cowley Deanery Synod.</p>	<p>The proposal to be sent to the Diocesan Synod.</p>
21:14	<p>The Area Dean thanked Synod and closed the meeting with prayer.</p>	

Item	Action	To be actioned by
1	Synod representatives to feedback from this meeting to their Parishes	Synod Representatives
6	Send the Agreed Proposal to the Diocesan Secretary	Geoff Bayliss

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