

**Minutes for Cowley Deanery Synod, Tuesday 26th February 2019
St James Church Hall, 13 Beauchamp Lane, Oxford , OX4 3LF**

Apologies received:

Flora Alexander	Rachel Gibson	Ray Lee	Robert Morgan
Sheila Allcock	Andy Gosler	Tim Massingham	Bethan Willis
Elaine Bardwell	David Knight	Darren McFarland	Margaret Woodcock

Attendances signed:

Margreet Armitstead	Wulf Forrester-	Diane Mason	James Plunket
Ben Baker	Barker	Andrew McKeanery	Penny Powell
Geoff Bayliss	Sister Catherine	Stephen Michael	Leslie Rhodes
Eric Bossward	Harvey	Patricia Michael	Phil Ritchie
Heather Carter	Tim Howles	Margaret Norman	Blanche Stiff
Hannah Cartwright	Natacha Huggett	Jayne Ozanne	Felicity Wallendszus
Leon Catello	Trevor Jones	Millius Palayiwa	Christine Woodman
Jim Cocke	Ed Ling	Tony Phelan	

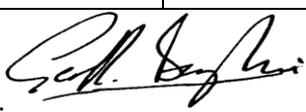
Guests:

The Venerable Martin Gorick, Archdeacon of Oxford
Revd Vaughan Roberts, Rector of St Ebbes, Oxford

Area Dean: Revd Canon Geoff Bayliss **Lay Chair:** Mr Tony Phelan

Minutes recorded by Angela Cooper

Timing	Agenda Item		Actions
19:40	Welcome and opening worship	The Revd Geoff Bayliss, Cowley Team Rector and Cowley Area Dean opened the meeting, welcoming all to St James Church Hall. Synod was led in prayer and worship. The Area Dean had slightly rearranged the order of the items on the agenda.	
	Numbering System for Deanery Synod	To assist in identifying speakers during Synod and for the purposes of accurately recording the minutes, numbers had been added to name labels. All were asked to please quote their name and number when asking a question or making a comment.	
19:50	St Ebbes Cowley Plant: Chaired by the Venerable Martin Gorick, Archdeacon of Oxford	The Area Dean handed over to the Archdeacon, this section was chaired by the Venerable Martin Gorick, Archdeacon of Oxford, to allow the Area Dean to participate within the remit of his other role- Rector of the Cowley Team Ministry. Church planting has always been a part of the mission often Church of England, all churches within the deanery had themselves been planted by someone at some point. Church planting is once again very much on the agenda of the Church of England and the Diocese of Oxford, the question is how do we reach the groups of people who are not connecting with traditional church? Even with many different styles of parish church people still do not connect, there is a need to reach out to people in different ways. The Parish of Cowley covers a large area, Geoff and the Cowley Ministry Team had been praying for people to partner in mission with and on hearing news that the URC building was for sale, had been praying that whoever bought it would be able to partner in the work of the Kingdom with them. The Archdeacon handed over to the Revd Vaughan Roberts , Rector of St Ebbes.	

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<p>19:55</p>	<p>Presentation by Revd Vaughan Roberts, Rector of St Ebbes</p>	<p>To fully understand the history of the church plant in Cowley was to go back twenty years when he became Rector of St Ebbes, at that time the congregation at St Ebbes had outgrown its building and a solution needed to be found to accommodate and allow for continued growth. St Ebbes has a small residential parish without any community space that the church could expand into. St Ebbes had consulted the Bishop at the time about planting into the Headington Area and had also written to the incumbents in the Cowley Deanery however, the response from the Incumbents had not been particularly positive at that time. Contact was made with the Vicar of St Andrew's who, whilst acknowledging many differences between the two churches, welcomed them into his parish. He was hopeful that a St Ebbes plant in Headington might reach out to those in his parish under 50. Headington Girls school became the first venue for the plant, an evening service started and grew, however over time this became unsuitable as the school was often unavailable. Having spoken with Bruce Gillingham and St Clements PCC, it was agreed that the plant could move into Cheney School, within St Clements Parish.</p> <p>Sometime later St Ebbes received a call from an estate agent informing them that the Brethren Hall on Lime Walk was coming up for sale. This was prayerfully considered by St Ebbes PCC. The Archdeacon at the time was spoken to as was the Revd Jim Cocke, within whose Parish the Brethren Hall was located. St Ebbes were successfully in their bid for the building and the plant moved in and has continued to grow ever since. The Headington Plant did not have a BMO but retained its Anglicanism through connection with St Ebbes. The plant divided opinion, it was felt by some that St Ebbes had gone about planting into Headington in a wrong way and therefore it was felt best by the Area Dean at the time that the Headington Plant leaders did not to attend Chapter or Synod. However, in recent times this had changed, the leaders of St Ebbes Headington have been welcomed to Chapter and Synod. After this first plant, church planting was still on the heart of St Ebbes, their main congregation continued to grow but for many years no suitable place to plant in the city could be found. St Ebbes Church recently undertook major remodelling, inserting a balcony into the church to increase capacity and extra services were established to help accommodate new growth.</p> <p>It was mentioned to St Ebbes PCC that the URC building in Cowley was for a sale. At this time the Littlegate Trust (which had been established to buy the former lap dancing club opposite the church), had spare funds and asked St Ebbes if they were to put a bid in would St Ebbes use the building for a church plant. Time was short, the Rector of St Ebbes spoke with the Bishop of Oxford and the Revd Geoff Bayliss, in whose Parish the building was. Geoff had been praying for the possibility of partnership in Cowley and was positive towards this. The Littlegate Trust were successful in purchasing the URC building and asked St Ebbes if they would plant into it. They have recently appointed the Revd Ben Vane to lead the plant. There has been some of the same upset that the Headington plant caused, there was concern that the new plant would steal people from parish churches. However, the aim of the plant is not to re-divide the Christian cake and like St Ebbes said when they planted into Headington, if they take congregations away from parish churches in a year tell them to shut down and go away. The purpose of the plant is to serve the community and share the good news of Jesus, they were hoping to reach out to people in the community who don't currently go to church.</p>	
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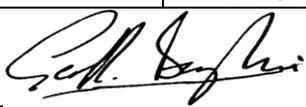
20:10		<p>The Revd Leon Catello is currently at Headington and Revd Ben Vane has been appointed as the first leader of Cowley and hopefully will arrive in April.</p>	
20:18		<p>The Archdeacon thanked the Rector of St Ebbes for his presentation and announced that there was 8 minutes for round the table discussions after which the Archdeacon asked if each table would like to comment on the presentation or had any questions.</p> <p>Revd M Armitstead- It had been so helpful to have Vaughan at Synod and Chapter to explain the whole process more fully as no one knew the backstory to the Cowley plant. There had been so many different assumptions made particularly about the theology of St Ebbes and its stand on LGBT etc, if there were to be a next time it would be advisable to meet face to face as soon as possible, this would hopefully ensure a mutual openness.</p> <p>Mr E Ling- Personally thought that it was great that this would be another place for the gospel to be shared in Cowley, although the table in general were concerned about what would be the values held by the new plant and how would they fit in with the values held by Cowley deanery.</p> <p>Dr T Phelan- had also been worshipping in the Deanery for 20 years and felt that the stories circulated at the time about the Headington plant varied in detail from the way Vaughan had retold them tonight, they remembered them a lot less rosy and would be interested to know why St Ebbes felt they had got it wrong with the Headington Plant.</p> <p>Mr S Michael- The table had felt that the church plant would be good for the Deanery, however a lot of rumours and non-facts could have been stopped had a presentation been given at the beginning of the process.</p> <p>Mr L Rhodes- Was in agreement with the previous comment. Hindsight shows how it could have been done differently, people had been hurt by the process however it was important to all rise above this and move forward together.</p> <p>Revd A McKearney -Felt that there was an underlying sense that somehow St Ebbes was not playing by rules with regards to Parish Share and the allocation of clergy, as the plant would not be paying into the Parish Share. Why had they not encouraged people from St Ebbes to join churches in Cowley? St Ebbes also had a different theological framework to that of which the Cowley Deanery operates in with regards to women clergy and gay marriage. It would bring a puritan community here within an Anglican Framework and that would be awkward and difficult to live with.</p> <p>Revd Phil Ritchie-Most people on this table felt positive that St Ebbes would be coming into the deanery and were hopeful that it would reach new people, particularly young people. The Deanery welcomes all traditions and could hopefully be welcoming to the new plant.</p> <p>The Rector of St Ebbes responded to the above comments and questions.</p> <p>He thanked Synod for extending a warm welcome to him and for speaking openly. He had come to speak to them at the first invitation. He has not been surprised by the comments, differences in theological understanding is not new to the Church of England. St Ebbes had not broken any rules; they paid their Share and they never made any</p>	

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		<p>appointments without the necessary approval. St Ebbes Headington had no BMO so its Parish Share is paid to the Oxford Deanery.</p> <p>Ms J Ozanne asked how could we move forward in a constructive way? St Ebbes Headington had been invited to many deanery events and had not come.</p> <p>Revd V Roberts-A lot of the upset Headington had caused could be traced to people not liking St Ebbes theological position and this had been masked by other items. Chapter and Synod had not been attended due to these feelings at the then Area Dean's suggestion, they have recently started to attend Chapter and Synod and have been welcomed.</p> <p>Revd T Howles- Had worshipped at St Ebbes for 12 years and was now curate at St Andrew's an example of how we can unite across the deanery.</p> <p>The Archdeacon - Revd Howles was not the only example, as people come to and grow in faith they move more naturally into different parishes. He also clarified that the Diocese funds 1 person and 1 house for each Parish, the Cowley plant will be completely funded by St Ebbes. The Archdeacon thanked the Area Dean for the invitation to Synod. The Area Dean thanked them both for their time.</p>	
20:35	<p>Deanery development updates.</p> <p>1.The Church of the Holy Family, Blackbird Leys- Revd Heather Carter.</p> <p>2. St Mary and St Nicholas, Littlemore - Revd Margreet Armitstead.</p>	<p>Updates from projects in the Deanery were given from the following Parishes, Blackbird Leys, Littlemore and Barton.</p> <p>A slideshow of the history of the church and the planned development was shown. The first church on the Blackbird Leys estate started in 1953, the current church was built in 1965. The roof had always leaked and caused problems, on 11th December 2018, a structural engineer inspected the roof and as a result of his findings condemned the building. Services are currently being held in the church hall. The plan is to rebuild the church and hall in keeping with the current design. Grants and donations will be used to fund the build, as will revenue from the twenty-one flats built in the current vicarage garden. It is hoped that these flats will provide affordable housing for keyworkers in the community. A new three storey vicarage would also be built. There is a robust financial plan to run the building, including plans to have four shop fronts that can be rented out. The church would be altered into 3 spaces, 2 semi-circular rooms and a central church that would set about 100.The walls between these three spaces would be moveable, making it a more flexible space to serve both the church and the community. The strapline for the church is the Heartbeat of the Community and it is hoped that the building will continue to be a place where the residents not only meet Jesus but where they also find community and fellowship also.</p> <p>The project video was shown. It was hoped that the development would enable the church to be a seven day church and not just for Sundays and that it would be a space where the community could connect with each other and God, to do this they need to create a flexible space, they also need to have toilets and a functioning kitchen.</p> <p>The biggest journey in the whole process was a journey of faith, trusting that the Lord would provide the funding for the project, it had been great to see people's faith grow as they trust the Lords provisions. They are half way through the fund raising and they need to raise another £320,000 to be able to start building in July. They had worked hard to raise funds so far, employing a professional fundraiser to look</p>	

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	<p>3. St Mary's, Barton- Revd Eric Bossward.</p> <p>4. Barton/ Elsfeld Proposed developments Eric Bossward.</p>	<p>for grants that may be available and had also organised events in central Oxford to raise awareness and fundraise.</p> <p>A slideshow of the planned development was shown.</p> <p>The aim of the development was to make the church building more functional,</p> <p>currently there is only very limited space for children and youth work on Sundays, no kitchen and only one toilet. Josh Greig at Purcell has produced a feasibility study, in consultation with the PCC and wider church community. The proposal is to renew and remodel the current building, adding an office, storage spaces and a new audio-visual system as well as extending the building to include a clear, attractive, recognisable entrance, a kitchen, toilets, classrooms spaces and a safe outside space for children. The work is planned in three stages: Stage one will see the renewal of the inside the church, during the second phase the new entrance space will be built on the side of the church facing the roundabout, this space will include a fully equipped kitchen, toilets and a space which could one day be used for a café. The third stage will be to build two classrooms on the opposite side of the church, these classrooms will be divided by a moveable wall, making it a flexible space, a toilet and a kitchenette will also be included. It is hoped that this space will be able to be rented out, without encroaching on the church. The estimated cost of the build is in the region of £2 million, the church is holding a gift day on the 24th March, the target they have set for this is £25,000 this will also be an exercise of faith for the church. Christchurch College want to build around 3,000 houses on the land that stretches across from Wick Farm to Bayswater Road. These developments will significantly increase the size of St Mary's Parish. The local community and the church PCC are not in favour of this development, the greenspace behind Barton is important to both the local community and the wildlife. Although the church PCC is opposed to the plans, there is a sense that whatever the objections the development will go ahead, should this be the case the church feels that it important that they have a seat at the table to help shape what happens.</p> <p>The Area Dean concluded that there was some exciting activity happening around the deanery and thanked those for sharing their plans with Synod.</p>	
21:10	<p>Finance:</p> <p>1. Deanery Finance- Deanery Treasurer</p> <p>Copies of the deanery accounts for 2018 and the proposed budget for 2019 had been circulated via email prior to the meeting.</p>	<p>The deanery share for 2018 had been paid in full, as it had been paid via Direct Debit the deanery had received a small rebate. The main change had been the merging of the deanery account with that of the Inspections of Churches, it was easier to have all deanery funds in one account. Four churches are due their quinquennial inspections this year, Angela Cooper would now be handling some of the administration work for this. There has been a question raised about R.E inspired on the 2019 budget, RE Inspired is an organisation that delivers RE sessions on the Christian topics in the school RE syllabus, where possible they try to hold these sessions in local churches. There had been an agreement that the Deanery would support this work with a yearly donation of £300, last year this donation had not been needed, the deanery treasurer would query if it was needed this year.</p> <p>No other questions about the accounts for 2018 or the budget for 2019 were raised, the deanery treasurer proposed that Synod adopt and approve;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the accounts for 2018 2. the budget for 2019 	

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21:15	<p>2.Fees The following document had been circulated via email prior to this meeting; Fees: Self-supporting ministry in Cowley Deanery.</p>	<p>3. to reappoint the independent examiner Tony Phelan, Lay Chair seconded these proposals, there was one abstention, all others present were in favour of adopting the three proposed items. These were duly adopted by Synod. The Area Dean thanked the Deanery Treasurer for his continued hard work. This document was to begin to raise the issue with Synod, there would be time at the next Synod for further discussion. The main point is that LLMS and SSMS are not paid to take funerals like retired clergy are, this means they are often unable to take them as to do so would mean a loss in earnings as they would need to take unpaid time off from their jobs. To pay them for conducting funerals would potentially enable the deanery to increase the number of funerals it takes, as the documents shows only 172 funerals were taken in the deanery in 2017. It was asked how it would be possible to increase funerals? The Area Dean replied that increasing the number of ministers available to take funerals would assist an increase as would developing good relationships with funeral directors. Revd A McKearney asked why Oxford Diocese take the line they currently do? The Area Dean would attempt to find out the answer for the next Synod.</p>	<p>Topic of fees put on to the next Synod agenda.</p> <p>Raise question of fees with the Diocese of Oxford.</p>
21:18	<p>Deanery 1.Cowley Deanery Name Change 2. Standing Committee Elections 3.Deanery Mission Fund 4. Articles of Enquiry 5.Map Revision 6.New Wine</p>	<p>A survey had been circulated via email prior to the meeting; copies were available to complete at Synod. The results would enable the Standing Committee to determine how passionate people were about this and determine if it was something to invest time and energy into.</p> <p>There had been no nominations received, a lay vacancy on the Standing Committee remains.</p> <p>The way forward with the Deanery Mission Fund is unclear at the moment, this will be an agenda item for Chapter and then will be extended for discussion at Synod and with parish treasurers.</p> <p>The Area Dean reminded Synod that the Articles of Enquiry needed to be completed by each Parish, he could be contacted for help to complete them if required.</p> <p>The Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP) needs to be reviewed, updated and moved forward to its next stage. It is hoped that someone from the Diocese will facilitate the start of this via a workshop that would be open to all members of the Deanery.</p> <p>A number from the Deanery are attending New Wine (a week-long Christian Conference held at Peterborough racecourse), if others in would like to go the, Area Dean would be happy to provide more information.</p>	
21:23	<p>Approval of minutes for Synod 7.11.18</p>	<p>The minutes for Synod 7.11.2018 were approved by all present at the end of the meeting. There were no matters arising. The minutes would be signed by the Area Dean and uploaded to the deanery website.</p>	<p>Minutes to be signed & put to website.</p>

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21:25	AOB 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	<p>The correct date and time of the Visitation Service in May would be emailed to Synod. Cowley Deanery would oversee arrangements for the service, a welcome and refreshment team would be needed for the evening. Margreet Armitstead and Malcom Atkins would organise a deanery choir for the service, details of rehearsals and hymn choices would be circulated.</p> <p>All Saints were putting on JS Bach S John Passion on Saturday the 6th of April, all were warmly invited and flyers with further information on were available.</p> <p>Copies of the recent 2018 Faith survey were available should anyone wish to have a copy.</p> <p>A group would be going from Oxford to a workshop by Pádraig ÓTuama on Borders and Community at Coventry Cathedral on 16th March details of arrangements would be sent out in case anyone else wanted to attend.</p> <p>The Revd Canon Anthony Williamson, a worker priest operating in the Cowley area for many years had recently died, details of his funeral would be circulated.</p>	<p>Update Synod with details.</p> <p>Circulate details of choir rehearsals.</p> <p>Put flyer on the deanery website.</p> <p>Circulate event details.</p> <p>Circulate funeral details.</p>
21:30		The Area Dean led the Synod in prayer and closed the meeting with the words of the Grace.	

The meeting closed at 21:32.

Actions Arising.

Action	
1.Topic of fees put on next Synod agenda.	Geoff Bayliss
2. Raise question of fees with Oxford Diocese.	Geoff Bayliss
3.Synod Minutes to be signed by Area Dean and uploaded to deanery website.	Geoff Bayliss/Angela Cooper
4.Check date and time of Visitation Service and update Synod.	Angela Cooper
5.Circulate details of choir rehearsals, funeral and Coventry Cathedral event to Synod.	Angela Cooper
6.Add event flyer to deanery website.	Angela Cooper

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