

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOODBRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD

held on Tuesday, 26 February at 19:30 in St John's Church Hall, Woodbridge.

Clare Sanders, Rural Dean, welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking St John's for the hospitality. Clive Howard led the opening worship, assisted by St John's members.

Clare Sanders introduced our Guest Speaker, Chris Wilkes, from Christian Aid.

GUEST SPEAKER: CHRIS WILKES, CHRISTIAN AID

Theme: Alternatives to House-to-House Collections

Chris began by giving background to the theme of this year's Christian Aid week, Maternal Health, by relating the contrasting stories of Jebbeh and Tenneh, from Sierra Leone, the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth but through Christian Aid's partner RADA (Rehabilitation and Development Agency), Christian Aid is working to help vulnerable women access healthcare and it is hoped that through support for Christian Aid Week, childbirth can be made safe for mums and babies in Sierra Leone and that through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

Chris then moved onto alternatives to the traditional House-to-House collection as it is becoming more difficult to find volunteers who are willing to knock on doors. He said there were many different ways of raising money and gave several suggestions including having a drop-off point in a shop, hosting a 'Big Brekkie' or other type of 'do', sponsored walk, or maybe using a QR code on publicity material.

Chris then spoke about 'The Big Shift' and urged people to sign the poster appealing to HSBC to stop investing in fossil fuels. Simon Snell, the local coordinator for Christian Aid, will be travelling by bicycle and train to Suffolk branches of HSBC and will be visiting the Woodbridge branch on 21 March, to hand over a petition.

Chris mentioned two dates:

13 April Christian Aid Week Launch Coffee Morning, 10.00am at St Augustine's Church, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich, IP3 8TH.

12 May, Christian Aid Week Service, 6pm at the Cathedral.

Clare Sanders thanked Chris for the interesting and informative talk and urged everyone to do what they could for Christian Aid Week (12-18 May 2019).

Synod recessed for refreshments, provided by the St John's team.

Business resumed with Mary Hare, Lay Chair, who began by thanking the St John's refreshment team, and encouraging everyone to sign the attendance book.

The attendance book was signed by 29 Lay Members and 4 clergy.
Please see attached schedule.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - please see attached schedule

2 MINUTES of the meeting held on 28 John 2018, having been previously circulated, were proposed for approval, adopted and signed, after the amendment to Tim Cooper's name. The meeting in October, for which there were no Minutes, was the Growing in God Roadshow at Martlesham, which had proved useful and informative.

3 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA None.

4 NOTICES - RURAL DEAN'S AND LAY CHAIR

The Bishops would like us all to be involved with their Lent appeal this year for Kagera. Full information is available on <http://www.cofesuffolk.org/bishops/kagera-lentappeal>, or from the Diocesan Office.

Mary Hare reported that the Dean was keen to visit parishes, to worship with them and learn more about the Diocese. He had recently had a very successful visit to St Mary's, Woodbridge, where he had preached and then had lunch with the Junior Church.

5 REPORTS:

Diocesan Synod The report from the meeting on 13 October 2018 had been circulated previously. The next meeting is due to take place shortly, on 16 March 2019.

General Synod Tony Allwood highlighted the following areas from the Synod meeting the previous week. A written report will be produced, which will be distributed shortly.

The main focus was on Evangelism. There were four debates: Evangelism and Discipleship, Ministry among children and young people, Youth evangelism and Estates evangelism. There were also discussions on Environmental progress, homelessness and gambling advertising.

In addition to the main debates, there were lots of fringe meetings. Tony attended several and highlighted the Digital meeting. This team was set up 2 ½ years ago and is now making a real impact. The Christmas 'Follow the Star' campaign reached 8 million people on social media and will be repeated for Christmas 2019. 'A Church Near You' website has been revamped and now has 10 million page views per year with average of 4 pages per person, which means 2 ½ million people are using it and 87% of visitors are for the first time. Tony reminded everyone how important it was to keep their 'A Church Near You' pages up to date. The digital team claim this is now easier to edit and each church can have five editors. As editor you are able to view statistics for your pages. Coming soon: Benefice homepage.

The Digital team are now responsible for:

National website

App

Alexa audio

and linked Printed paper.

These are all co-ordinated and much more professionally produced.

For Lent, there is 'Lent Pilgrim, 40 days of reflections on the Beatitudes', followed by 'Easter Pilgrim, 40 days of reflection on the Lord's Prayer', from Easter to Ascension Day. These can be accessed via your computer, your smartphone, your tablet or a booklet.

For 'Thy Kingdom Come' campaign 30 May – 9 June, all CofE schoolchildren will be receiving an adventure map.

Examples were available to be viewed.

Mary Hare thanked Tony Allwood for his report.

6 FINANCE (Clive Willetts – Deanery Organiser)

Clive thanked everyone for the effort made with the payment of the Centenary Share and that the team approach had proved successful. There is likely to be an increase of 5% for the next two or three years, with some parishes' payments increasing and some not. He asked that we keep an "open door" about helping other parishes.

Clare Sanders added that last year the Bishops had requested all parishes undertake a stewardship campaign, which should happen by Easter. The Bishops had issued a reminder that day to all clergy, asking them to report on progress.

Mary Hare thanked Clive Willetts for his report.

7 ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

Ted Evans volunteered to provide QR codes for parishes. Please contact him for further information.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19 June 2019

Venue: Butley Village Hall

Synod concluded with prayers.