Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held on 11th June 2026 in Dove Café, St Thomas, Holtspur, Beaconsfield, commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Jonny Rapson (AD), Lloyd Davis, Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson (AAD), Margot Suter, Jenny Tebboth, Jeremy Moodey, Sue Gill, Daf Merion-Jones

House of Laity:

Joanna Barclay, Chris Embleton-Smith, Michael Batchelor, Roger Edwards, Margaret Carey, Jonathon Chapman, Richard Silman, Hilary Forbes, Jackie Lambert, Edda Lindner, Neil Lynch, Helen Savage, Jacqueline Rose, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Stephanie Shinner, Ian Hamilton, Hazel Miller, Martin Paxton, Linda Meatyard, Katherine Melling, Jenny Williams, Caroline Wiggins, Christine Nisbet, Brian O'Regan.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Christoph Lindner (AAD), Peter Ackroyd, Michelle Fotherby, Graham Summers, Samuel Thorp, Laurie Clow, Ed Down, Debbie Oades.

Apologies House of Laity:

Anthony Bargioni, Margaret Gingell, Wendy Godrich, Janine Dunnell, Andrew Bell, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Dorothy Potter (Hon Sec), David Knowles, Gareth Williams, Wendy Godrich, Benjamin Rajapandian, Ian Hackett

Visitors: Juliet Brown, Jenny Niven, Tim Marshall, Sandy Leighton-Jones.

Rev'd Jonny Rapson (Area Dean) was Chair for the meeting.

1) Welcome and Worship

   The meeting began at 8 pm with big thanks to the Dove Café team for coffee and cake.

   The Rev'd Lloyd Davis then led us on a thought on St Barnabas – the 'Son of Encouragement". This was followed by a time of Worship.

   Rev'd Jonny Rapson, welcoming the Synod, with thanks for both new members, and for those that have completed the previous year or more on Deanery Synod.

2) Apologies – these are taken from signing in sheet, in addition to those given to the Secretary ahead of the meeting.

3) Minutes of the Last Meeting – 11th September 2025:
   These were and are available on the Deanery Website https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/ddocuments.html however some had apparently not received notification. To be reviewed at next Synod Meeting.

4) Matters Arising – General Synod

The Rev'd Jeremy Moodey (serves on CofE General Synod along with Amersham Deanery representatives Canon Julie Dziegiel and Dr Andrew Bell) reminded Synod that there will be one more General Synod meeting in York next month. Following this, General Synod will be prorogued, and elections will take place. Lay members of Oxford Diocese Deanery Synods are the electorate for lay representation at the next General Synod.

At the most recent General Synod, the 'Living in Love and Faith' discussions around human sexuality had been paused by the Bishops, with some sharp difference of opinions left unresolved. However the issue is still live as at the next Synod, Professor Helen King (Oxford) will move a Private Members Motion: 'That this Synod affirm that there are no fundamental objections to being in a committed, faithful, intimate same-sex relationship, and that such a relationship can be entirely compatible with Christian discipleship.'

A further contentious issue is a motion from the Diocese of Carlisle relating to Christians in Palestine, Israels's occupation of Palestinian territory and responsible investment.[1]

5) Area Dean's Notes.

Area Dean's Notes were circulated in advance on the Deanery Website. The Area Dean highlighted the forthcoming meeting of Parish Safeguarding Officers network meeting to be held 7:30 pm Tuesday 23rd June at St James Centre, Gerrards Cross.

Deanery Synod was then suspended, and a meeting of the House of Laity.

a) Appointment of Chair of House of Laity Meeting

Christopher Embleton-Smith acted as Chair of House of Laity.

b) Election of Deanery Lay Chair

The office of Lay Chair is elected for a three year term by Synod. In the absence of other candidates, Lawrence Tebboth was elected as Lay Chair, but would prefer to serve for a single year. All synod members were invited to consider taking on the role of Lay Chair or Assistant Lay Chair.

The meeting of House of Laity was concluded, and Deanery Synod resumed.

6) Appointment of Deanery Officers

The Deanery officers are the Deanery Treasurer, and the Deanery Hon Secretary, and these positions are appointed by the Synod for a period of three years.

[1] All diocesan synod motions at General Synod can be found at https://www.churchofengland.org/about/governance/general-synod/special-agendas/diocesan-synod-motions

Canon Julie Dziegiel was unable to attend Synod but has indicated that she is prepared to remain as Treasurer. Synod agreed to appoint Julie by a show of hands, there being one vote against.

Dorothy Potter was unable to attend Synod has indicated that she is prepared to remain pro tem as Honorary Secretary but would like to stand down. Synod agreed to appoint Dorothy by a show of hands.

The Area Dean thanked both Julie and Dorothy. He would also be pleased to talk to anyone who would consider taking on the roles of Treasurer and Hon Secretary in the future.

7) A 'Rule of Life' for Amersham Deanery

Area Dean, Rev Jonny Rapson, introduced this part of Synod. Copies of the 'Rule of Life' discussion document were circulated as part of an email to known members. The document is also available on the Deanery website. https://www.amershamdeanery.org.uk/ddocuments.html

- What seed is God asking us to sow as a Deanery?
- What do we want Deanery to be?
- Where is God taking us?

Synod then broke into small groups to discuss a further set of three questions. This document will be available on the Deanery Website. Synod members are asked to add their views, and send their reflections to the Hon Secretary at Amersham Parish Office by email or post.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Next Synod Meeting Thursday 17th September, Location to be announced. Synod will include the Annual General Meeting of the Amersham Deanery Trust.