AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held on 11th September 2025 in St Mary's Church, commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Dan Beesley, Edward Bowes-Smith, Jez Carr, Sue Gill, Jim King, Christoph Lindner, Brian Ludlow, Victoria Jones, Peggy Ludlow, Jeremy Moodey, Charmaine Muir, Jenny Tebboth, David Whale, Peter Ackroyd.

House of Laity:

Heather Ashby-Rose, Anthony Bargioni, Andrew Bell, Margaret Carey, Janine Dunnell, Roger Edwards, Chris Embleton-Smith, Margaret Gingell, Francesca Hall -Drinkwater, Jacqui Hardman, David Knowles, Jackie Lambert, Sandy Leighton-Jones, Marion Miles, Peter Miles, Ian Mitton, Mark Nicholas, Andrew Patterson, Dorothy Potter, Hilary Povey, Jacqueline Rose, Don Sanderson, Trevor Sharkey, Stephanie Shinner, John Spence, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Nicholas Thompson, Wynne Thorndike, Kristel Van Wauwe, Joan Wainman, Eddie Weiss, Carol Wiggins.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Matt Beeby, Laurie Clow, Lloyd Davies, Michelle Fotherby, Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson, Edward Millais, Debbie Oades, Jonny Rapson, Sharon Roberts, Graham Summers, Margot Suter, Samuel Thorp.

Apologies House of Laity:

Sarah Ainsworth-Coles, Jean Batchelor, Michael Carmody, Hazel Chow, Graeme Coles, Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Chris Embleton-Smith, Hazel Miller, John Nash, Susan Pounce, Helen Savage.

Visitors: Helena Bancroft.

Mr Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) was Chair for the meeting.

1) The meeting began at 8 pm with the Chair welcoming the Synod. We are grateful for the use of the building, and for the refreshments provided. Rev'd Canon Edward Bowes-Smith opened the meeting with prayer and worship and Bible readings from Rev'd Charmaine Muir.

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

3) Minutes of the Last Meeting – 19th June 2025:
   These were approved

4) Matters Arising. None

5) Area Dean's Notes. Rev'd Peggy Ludlow has finished her tenure as Area Dean, but will be with us until the New Year.

   Archdeacon Guy Elsmore has retired and will be succeeded by Rev'd Gavin Knight from October. (Subsequent to meeting note, Gavin Knight has withdrawn his application.)

6) General Synod or Diocesan Synod Update: If you have any queries, please speak with Rev'd Jeremy Moodey.

7) Any Other Business: None

8) Amersham Deanery Link Missionaries: Steve and Lindsay Poulson are in the UK and came to speak to us. The Deanery has supported CMS for Steve and Lindsay for 8 years in their work in Honduras. Steve and Lindsay spoke of their work with street children who are not in school. With their mentoring program 46% were less likely to get involved with drugs; 27% with alcohol and 52% skipping school. They have 65 children and young people in their programme including people who have gone on to become nurses, police officers and joining the army.

   During the Q & A Sessions they were asked if they co-ordinate with local churches. Church Culture is such that they engage with individuals from churches, rather than the churches themselves. Street Kids are not a church and encourage children and young people to attend church.

   The Deanery thanked the Poulsons for coming to talk to the meeting, and to continue their good works.

   Please see Deanery Website for their latest video.

9) Assisted Dying Bill – Presentation from Mr Peter Ladd from CARE (Christian Action Research and Education) Slides are on Deanery website.

   Care's vision is to see politics renewed and lives transformed. Our conviction is that the Bibles speaks a better story into our broken world than the one society can offer u, about what it means to be truly human to flourish. For more than 40 years we have been a leading voice on behalf of the voiceless and the marginalised, campaigning for a society which reflects more of God's heart. We work alongside churches, politicians and the leaders of tomorrow and believe that through our partnership, God can bring His Kingdom on earth, as it is in Heaven.

CARE believe that the Assisted Dying Bill should be renamed as the Assisted Suicide Bill. They do not believe that people should be enabled to bring forward an earlier death, but should receive better palliative care. The NHS only provide 1% of the budget to this area. CARE also believe that other countries that have endorsed Assisted Dying already, now have suggested or are suggesting that the parameters from terminally ill people be extended in some circumstances.

Whilst the Assisted Dying Bill is due to have another reading Mr Petr Ladd suggests writing to the local MP, even though locally she has given her support to it.

Ther was a short Q & A session, and Mr Ladd was thanked for coming and talking to the meeting.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 9.50pm,

The next Synod will be on Thursday 20th November at St James Centre, Gerrards Cross.