AMERSHAM DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of the Amersham Deanery Synod meeting held on 17th September 2026 in St Peters Church, Chalfont St Peter, commencing at 8pm.

Present: House of Clergy: Peter Ackroyd, Sam Frampton, Lucy Fyfe-Jamieson (AAD), Sue Gill, Jim King, Jonny Rapson (AD), Margot Suter, Jenny Tebboth.

House of Laity:

Joanna Barclay, Michael Batchelor, Andrew Bell, Juliet Brown, Janine Dunnell, Canon Julie Dziegiel (Hon Treasurer), Roger Edwards, Christopher Embleton-Smith, Simon Evans, Hilary Forbes, Francesca Hall -Drinkwater, David Knowles, Jackie Lambert, Neil Lynch, Katherine Melling, Hazel Miller, Mark Nicholas, Christine Nisbet, Brian O'Regan, Dorothy Potter (Sec), Andrew Patterson, Martin Paxton, Jacqueline Rose, Stephanie Shinner, Richard Silman, Bill Stokes, Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair), Caroline Wiggins, Gareth Williams, Jenny Williams.

Apologies: House of Clergy:

Dan Beesley, Jez Carr, Laurie Clow, Darren Dalton, Lloyd Davis, Ed Downs, Victoria Jones, Christoph Lindner (AAD), Daf Meirion-Jones, Jeremy Moodey, Charmaine Muir, Debbie Oades, Margot Suter, Samuel Thorp, David Whale.

Apologies House of Laity:

Anthony Bargioni, Margaret Carey, Wendy Godrich, Ian Hackett, Ian Hamilton, Edda Lindner, Linda Meatyard, Helen Savage.

Visitors: Mary Lee, Rev'd Graham Summers, Corrine Summers,

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

1) Welcome, Worship and Seeking God Together

Rev'd Jonny Rapson (Area Dean) opened the meeting with prayer.

Father Sam Frampton, Priest in Charge Chalfont St Peter led Synod in worship and prayer.

2) Synod Business

Lawrence Tebboth (Lay Chair) led this section. He thanked the team at St Peter for their welcome and provision of refreshments.

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

b) Minutes of the Last Meeting – 11th June 2026:
These were approved after noting that Mr Simon Evans was also present.

c) No matters arising.

d) Area Dean's Team Notes: Bishop Steven has now gone, and it is hoped that a new appointment will be made in February 2027. A prayer taken from the resources on the Oxford Diocese website was said for those administering the appointment of a new bishop.

e) Prayer was requested for church ministers a number of whom are unwell of dealing with some immediate issues.

f) General Synod elections. There are six nominees in Amersham Deanery: Two Clergy (Rev'd Jeremy Moodey and Rev'd Samuel Thorp) and four Lay (Canon Julie Dziegiel, Helen Savage, Andrew Bell and David Lilley). Deanery Synod members from the whole of the Oxford Diocese form the electorate. The voting period 21st September to 13th October.

g) Chenies House for Duty post – There will be an interview day on 8th October.

h) The Parish Profile has been prepared for the Section 12 meeting for Beaconsfield to be held 21st September.

i) Diocesan Synod – Next year will be elections for Diocesan Synod where 3 Clergy members and 4 Lay Members can be appointed. Please consider joining Synod either now as currently we have one vacancy for both clergy and lay members.

j) Denham Parish are looking for a part- time administrator – details on Amersham Deanery website.

3) Knowing One Another.

Rev'd Jonny Rapson (AD) invited the synod to chat to introduce yourself to those around you.

Amersham Deanery Synod Closed

Annual General Meeting of the Amersham Deanery Trust Opened

4) Amersham Deanery Trust AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Amersham Deanery Trust (ADT) was chaired by Canon Julie Dziegiel, Trustee.

Canon Dziegiel advised the Synod that they were all members of Amersham Deanery Trust with liability of £1. The aim of the Trust is to support benefices and parishes within the Amersham Deanery. The source of income for the Trust is the rebate from the Diocese for payment of *Parish Share.*

The accounts for 2025were circulated in advance of the meeting and are available on the Deanery Website. As in recent previous years the reserves have been reduced owing to support of an increasing number of Deanery benefices and parishes which were experiencing financial difficulties or were withholding part of the allocated Parish Share for theological reasons. It is expected that if the run down continues the reserves will be used up within three to four years.

Following a short question time Julie asked Synod to Accept the Accounts for 2025.

The Proposal was carried by a show of hands with no objections or abstentions.

Canon Julie Dziegiel presented the Amersham Deanery Trust Budget for 2026, which was circulated prior to the meeting and is available on the Deanery Website.

Following a short question time Julie asked Synod to Accept the Budget for 2026.

The Proposal was carried by a show of hands. No objections or abstentions.

Canon Julie Dzigiel thanked Mr David Steel, Treasurer Gerrards Cross, who had acted as Independent Examiner for the Accounts. She then proposed that David be asked to act as Examiner for 2026.

The proposal to ask Mr David Steel, to be Independent Examiner was accepted by a show of hands – no objections or abstentions.

Canon Julie Dziegiel closed Amersham Deanery Trust

Rev'd Jonny Rapson re-opened Amersham Deanery Synod

5) **Encouraging One Another – Stories from Across the Deanery**

The Area Dean – Rev'd Jonny Rapson invited everyone to share encouraging stories from across the Deanery.

- Mrs Mary Lee advised that she has been appointed Archdeaconry Advisor for Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM's). Mrs Lee requested that all LLM's to be invited to future meetings of Synod.

- Chalfont St Peter: Father Sam Frampton advised that the parish had seen growth and progress. A new Bubble Church initiative is just about to commence.

- Chalfont St Giles: Action for Youth. The parish had been gifted a Youth Club premises in Narcot Lane and after re-working the space will use it for outreach. They provide bacon rolls every morning from 7.30am for all.

- Amersham on the Hill: Today is 60 years since St Michael and All Angels church was dedicated, and Rev'd Peter Binns has been with the parish for 60 years and Rev'd Debbie Oades for 10 years.

- Emmanuel Church, Chesham: Bible Classes/Courses were run during the summer – more take up of the course than expected – more have come to faith.

Rev'd Jonny Rapson asked whether there was anything to pray for.

- Chesham Bois: Rev'd Laurie Clow who is sick – with the request that any ordained minister to help out. They also need assistance with music/organist.

- Seer Green and Jordans: The members of the teenage group have left to go to university, but there is a lack of new members, and those that have come haven't settled. They need a music leader.

- Chenies Benefice: Rev'd David Whale is off sick and there is a vacancy at Latimer and Flaunden parish.

- Beaconsfield: There is a vacancy for Team Rector with St Michael's. Rev'd Lloyd Davis (St Thomas Holtspur) newborn baby is very unwell.

Seeking God Together. Rev'd Jonny Rapson talked through the item the "Rule of Life" document and the background material produced since the feedback from the June Synod Meeting. He asked Synod whether the "Rule of Life" could be a shared aim for Amersham Deanery?

He also shared that on a recent retreat, he had found the document '***let your soul catch up with your body' t***o be pertinent to all those with busy lives.

The next Deanery meeting will be at 7:30 for 8:00 pm on Thursday 26th November (not 12th) at St James Centre, Gerrards Cross.

Rev'd Jonny Rapson (Area Dean) closed the meeting at 9pm