# Deanery of the Isle of Wight

**Deanery Council**

**7 June 2016 7pm Swanmore Vicarage**

Present: David Isaac, Peter Sutton, Hilary Spurgeon, Graham Salter, Peter Blake, Allie Kerr, Graham Morris, Sarah McCarthy Fry, Sally Rivlin (sec)

1. Canon David Isaac **welcomed** members to this historic meeting as One Deanery Council. Members introduced themselves and the meeting opened in prayer.
2. Apologies: Hugh Wright, David Bennison
3. **Minutes of the meeting** held 14 April 2016 were agreed.
4. **Minutes of the Deanery Synod** held on 11 May 2016 were noted, as tabled to members. At the current time these have not been circulated to Synod Reps. SR is waiting for a handover from Christine Westmore.
5. **Appointments**

DTI and GS had consulted over the Vice Chair role and proposed that SMF be appointed. The Council agreed. It was further agreed that SMF, with her accountancy background, was ideally placed to fulfil also the role of Chair of the Finance Advisory Group and Council appointed her to this role.

Synod Secretary. The Council may propose to the Synod those to serve as co-opted members of the Synod. The meeting agreed that SR be co-opted to the Synod in her role as Deanery Synod Secretary.

Emily Bagg is also an ex-officio member of the Synod in her capacity as General Synod Representative. and should be invited to attend meetings of the Synod

The meeting discussed IOW representation at Diocesan Synod which is currently 2 people.

1. **Role of Council**

DTI informed the meeting that its primary function is to be the Standing Committee of Synod. The Council is the servant of the Synod, to implement its decisions and conduct its business, with accountability to the Synod. It has oversight of issues relating to Parish Share and must engage with and promote the financial affairs of the Island parishes. It may raise money, through the Precept, for its own work and the costs of running the deanery. The pattern of meetings across a year would, ideally, fit into the diocesan decision making process. Dates were circulated and members were asked to email SR with availability against them. We can review these if not fit for purpose. We currently have 4 Reps on Bishops Council: 2 Lay and 2 Clergy. It is possible this may now reduce to 1 Lay and 1 Clergy. (It was noted that Meon has 4 deaneries; Portsdown 2 and IOW one.)

Marcus Bagg, as a deanery Bishop’s Council representative should be invited to be in attendance at Council. DTI will seek clarification about the future from WK. There was strong feeling that we should make a case for 4 IOW reps, given the size of the deanery.

1. The Council also serves as the **Mission and Pastoral** committee for the deanery, providing a place of focus and important oversight on the allocation and deployment of resources for ministry. Decisions made by IOW Deanery Council feed into the Bishops Council Mission and Pastoral Advisory group.

PS gave an overview and update on the Island Plan as a new One Deanery with a clear mission field and unique boundary. Collaborative working will be encouraged (including an emphasis when posts are advertised and people interviewed). We have over the years relied on retired clergy but at a cost of promoting vocation. This is beginning to change. In the future there will be fewer stipendiary and self-supporting ministers and the importance of Clusters and how we make these work will be important.

PS wants the Island plan to be owned at a grass roots level. He is encouraging sharing of resources and special moments when we come together as a whole community for bigger and more significant and inspiring events. PS is aware that drawing on support from diocesan officers is harder because of the stretch of water between us. We need to share stories of changed lives and changing forms of ministry.

2 Readers have been accepted for the Pathway training with a possible additional 2 this year. ADDO and LPAs are already making a difference, as it is anticipated the Lay Worship and Lay Preaching courses will once they are delivered.

Clergy Leadership is key and developing a collegial understanding of working together. This is illustrated by clergy praying and sharing meals together. DTI is offering a fuller programme for people to meet together through chapter, training and social gatherings.

The *key dates* leaflet will be updated and circulated on a quarterly basis.

Vacancies update: PS spoke about Barton, The Bay; West Wight; Brading.

1. **Visitation debrief**

DTI led a short discussion on the 2016 Visitation. To note for the future: Compline not needed; Choir had too many items; content heavy for people; stage directions needed for clergy helpers. Overall felt it was a successful evening and bought many together.

1. **Finance**

HS updated members on the Diocesan Finance meeting held the previous evening (6.6.2016). The 2017 budget and parish share allocations are almost ready. Parishes causing concern will be offered Vitality Audits after two months of non-payment. ADs will be asked to inform parishes of this new approach. Those affected will receive 6 months of support from Charlie Peer/Victoria James and must produce a plan of how they will address their arrears.

Parishes were asked to send in their accounts whether audited or no,t as many for 2015 remain outstanding. A discussion was held on whether, with vacant posts, there could be some form of ‘Jubilee’ writing-off of deficit for Island parishes.

Mary Strange has finalised the accounts for the former East Wight deanery and transferred the balance of funds to the single deanery account, except for those funds retained for distribution back to some parishes (former East Wight) of 2014 precept which was not required. DTI will send a letter to all parishes informing them of the agreed precept for 2016, and that this will not be required to be raised this year, but that the precept for 2017 will need to be received at the start of the year.

**Deanery Finance Advisory Group**

Chair: SMF; Treasurer: PB

DTI outlined his hope that the Finance Advisory group would have representation from each cluster. Suggested serving treasurers were mentioned and the meeting agreed DTI should approach each and see if they were willing to serve. Mission items will be linked so some clergy representation might be helpful.

In addition, it was agreed to arrange a meeting for all IOW treasurers, say twice a year possibly by cluster.

**Stewardship programme**

The programme is gaining momentum for further work during the autumn including Stewardship Sundays, culminating in the Celebration event in Newport Minster on 25 January. The meeting wished to express their thanks to Victoria James for her work.

SR to ask VJ when the second tranche of stewardship materials will be ready for parishes.

1. **Future Synod Agenda**

GS spoke about a **Diocesan policy for church resourcing** of major (housing) development areas prepared by the Archdeacon of the Meon and agreed by Bishop’s Council. Two such developments are known on the Island: Pennyfeathers (Ryde) with 900 units and Bluebell (Pan Meadows) 800 units. ‘Aspire, based in the former Holy Trinity church, Ryde, is currently in discussion with the developers about a purpose-built building at Pennyfeathers, which is actually located in Brading parish. Upton Road and East Cowes are other areas where large housing development could happen. PS suggested John Metcalfe, CEO of the IW Council, be invited to speak to Synod . Graham Salter and Graham Morris volunteered to liaise with John Metcalfe if he accepts.

**Deanery Celebration January 2017**

Cluster feedback will be sought in order to inspire us, bring good news and show mission priorities being addressed. Stewardship successes will be celebrated as will Vitality Audit meetings.

1. **Dates for meetings 2016/7** – Diocesan, Deanery Synod and Council dates were suggested. Members are asked to email SR with their availability against these.
2. IOW Day – Ecumenical Songs of Praise mid-afternoon on Sunday 25 Sept Actual details to be finalised and disseminated to parishes.

The High Sheriff has bunting available by request via his website.

Graham Morris closed the meeting at 20.40 with prayers.