

Issued no 1

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Archdeacon: The Very Reverend Karen Gorham

Associate Area Dean: Rev Laurence Meering

Secretary Mr Geoff Ball

Diocesan Representatives: Rev John Waller (Clergy) Rev Michelle Morton (Clergy) Annie Cooper (Laity) Gavin Merrylees (Laity)

**Editorial**

Welcome to the first issue of the new Deanery Newsletter. It is intended that the letter should contain succinct information from the Parishes/Benefices on a single sheet such as this. If it is successful it can greatly contribute to the effectiveness of the Mursley Deanery by improving communication particularly through the Laity. It has the support of the Pastoral Committee with the hope of 4 issues per year shortly before each of the Synod meetings in February, June, September and November.

This depends upon the support, which the Parishes and Benefices give by sharing information of their joys and concerns in relation to Parish Matters of general interest to other parishes in the Deanery.

It is hoped that the Laity will take a close interest in providing information; indeed ideally the Laity should provide Gavin Merrylees ([gavin.merrylees@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gavin.merrylees@tiscali.co.uk)) with the material for "News from the Parishes/Benefices" about 4 weeks before the following Synod Meeting. It is important to avoid adding to the burdens of the clergy.

The suggestion is that the information should relate to matters like the introduction of communion before confirmation, starting men's groups, applying for faculties, Church Building maintenance problems and how they can be overcome, putting amplification etc into your church. Domestic matters such as the next whist drive or plant sale are not really what this is about. Due the limited space and to ensure every parish has an entry, the editor may have to be selective in relation to the information supplied.

It is hoped that this will lead to a Deanery Network and eventually a Website to provide a source of information for Parishes and Benefices. Although much is already available through the Diocese, the Lay Chair is always ready to help. It can be so encouraging to know that others in the Deanery may have similar issues so that direct and practical help and advice can be obtained locally.

This is part of the serious object of the Deanery as laid down in the Synodical Government Measure 1969 whereby the Deanery is:

- (i) To bring together the views of the parishes of the deanery on common problems,
- (ii) To discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, To foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and
- (iii) Generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, social and ecumenical

Complementing this is **the duty of the PCCs to raise such matters as the council considers appropriate with the deanery.**

This is the two way process to which Bishop John refers in his document "Living Faith for the Future".

It may be observed that not all parishes have been able to provide information for the first issue. There is no shame in that. This is due to the fact that publication has coincided with APCMs and changes in personnel and general settling down after elections. It is hoped that by September Parishes will have had time consider the Newsletter and had a chance to send in News. Thus by this time next year the process will be in place. People may like to consider whether their news should be from the Benefice or from the individual Parishes.

If there is anyone of the Laity in the Deanery, who would be interested in assisting Gavin Merrylees, any advice or other offer of help is welcome. He is a novice and welcomes constructive criticism and help.

**From The Lay Chair**

Hi Everyone, I do hope you will welcome and begin to contribute to Gavin's brave venture. This first issue is still very much a 'work in progress' and suggestions, comments and hints would be welcome. Gavin wants it to be a Newsletter for the Deanery and a means of sharing and supporting our Deanery life.

At the time of writing I am looking forward to meeting many of the parish wardens as we gather this evening for the annual visitation by Archdeacon Karen in Wing. This is such a good occasion to meet and get to know each other. The annual inspection of churches is now about to commence and I have already been in touch with a number of parishes to book appointments. This again is such a good opportunity to catch up with all that you are doing in the parishes. Personally, I find it a moving and humbling experience; the hard work, dedication and love that goes into the care of our places of worship is truly amazing, and I am very grateful for the time the wardens give me in order to carry out the inspection. I would also like to express my deep appreciation of the welcome I receive when I join you for worship on a Sunday, you really make me feel like one of your parish family. Thank you. May God bless you all,

Bobbie

**From The Associate Area Dean**

I have very much enjoyed my First year as Associate Area Dean, and am getting to know quite a few of the parishes and the faithful people working in them. It is exciting seeing what God is doing around the Deanery!

However I am very glad to see that Marsworth has successfully re-emerged as a parish in its own right and is settling in well to the benefice of Ivinghoe with Pitstone and Slapton and now Marsworth.

### **General Deanery News**

The Deanery is still going through the process of implementing the reorganisation. The Marsworth element of this is thankfully complete. Our prayers are that the other elements will proceed equally smoothly.

Although we have few full time priests to care for the 20 parishes, we are blessed with Canon John Saunders serving as House for Duty in Newton Longville and the Deanery. We look forward to 4<sup>th</sup> October, when Jackie Brown in Newton Longville will be priested at Stowe. Equally there are quite a few people who are able to give their time by either being non stipendiary local ministers or devoting time notwithstanding that they have retired. We also hope to welcome shortly Carole Peters, who is about to take up her duties as Curate in Training at Ivinghoe and will be living in Marsworth.

We congratulate those in course of Training, namely Sandra Green of Ivinghoe, who has completed her portfolios for LLM, Barbara de Butts who is about to complete her portfolios and Margaret Kirkby of Slapton as she progresses in training.

There is much for which to be thankful.

### **Deanery Events:**

1 <sup>st</sup> June	Deanery Synod Meeting
June 13th	Music in Quiet Places – Wing
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	“ “ “ – Aston Abbots
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	“ “ “ - Mursley
December	The Childrens’ Day, referred to by Ivinghoe below as cancelled, may be resurrected. Contact Rev Tracey Doyle 01296 668046 or Annie Cooper 01296 681250

### **News from the Benefices/Parishes**

#### **Wing with Grove and Wingrave with Rowsham Cheddington with Mentmore**

Formalities are still pending in Cheddington. Rev Robert Wright is now in harness as “House for Duty”. Roger Hale has been given permission to officiate on a regular basis at the fortnightly services in Mentmore. Members of the congregation at All Saints Wing are meeting to discuss matters of Living Faith.

#### **Ivinghoe with Pitstone, Slapton and Marsworth**

In December Marsworth became a parish again and formally re-acquired its own PCC on St George’s

Day. They have joined the Ministry Team with enthusiasm . The whole benefice enjoyed the Passover Supper on Maundy Thursday with 72 souls present. It is a great sadness that, after so much work by Tracey to organise the Deanery Children’s Day, she has had to cancel it for lack of Deanery Support. Nevertheless as one learns above, all may not be lost. Marsworth remains involved with Cheddington and Mentmore World Vision Churches in Partnership project in Stepanavan, Armenia. Good news is that of a new Benefice venture being born, namely a Men’s Group and advice and recommendations are sought from anyone in the Deanery who has experience of this.

#### **Newton Longville and Mursley with Swanbourne and Little Horwood**

There was a Good Friday Walk for adults and children across the fields from Mursley to a farmer’s barn where the children did craft while the adults watched drinking coffee and eating hot cross buns. Swanbourne celebrated St George’s Day with an increased congregation. Newton Longville will hold their Transport Festival on 27<sup>th</sup> May; Drayton Parslow and Little Horwood will celebrate Rogation with prayers round the villages. “Messy Church” is getting on its feet again in Mursley and Little Horwood. Later in the year there should be a “Church Crawl” from Newton Longville round the Archdeaconry to glean ideas for re-ordering the church. At a future Benefice Service several people will be authorised for healing following re-focusing seminars. And in July Bishop Alan will come for a Celebration of Marriage Service providing an opportunity for couples to renew their vows.

#### **Next Deanery Synod 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009**

7.30 pm at St Luke’s Church, Stoke Hammond  
Agenda Summary.

Election of Diocesan Synod Representatives (The Laity Candidates are: Annie Cooper and Gavin Merrylees)  
Approval of Parish Share Allocations and Deanery Accounts

“Lay Led Worship in the Deanery”

#### **Please Note**

**These are all matters of great importance to everyone and all in the Deanery may attend.**

#### **Parishes of the Deanery**

Aston Abbots	Bow Brickhill
Cheddington	Cublington
Drayton Parslow	Great Brickhill
Ivinghoe with Pitstone	Slapton
Little Brickhill	Little Horwood
Marsworth	Mentmore
Mursley	Newton Longville
Swanbourne	Soulbury
Stewkley	Stoke Hammond
Wing with Grove	Wingrave with Rowsham