

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Deanery Synod Report Jan – Dec 2017

The Deanery Synod met in February, April, June and October in 2017.

The Deanery paid over 93% of its allotted Deanery Parish Share of £83,000 for 2016, compared with an Archdeaconry average of 91%.

At the February Synod, Rev'd Dr Elizabeth Jordan, Lay Development Advisor in the Diocese, gave a presentation on lay ministry. Our mission, our calling, is to proclaim the Kingdom and so many have untouched skills that could be called upon and they can be found in parish offices, schools, places of work, church, networks, etc. This requires cooperation towards a common goal between the clergy and lay members. Licensed personnel have a Bishops Licence, which is a standard recognised within the Anglican Communion. Its training is stringent but training for the Laity is available at all levels. Elizabeth can be contacted on 01245 294 454 or [ejordan@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:ejordan@chelmsford.anglican.org).

Four workstreams of Evangelism, Children & Youth, Vocations and Resources have been set up within the Transforming Presence initiative, each led by a member of the clergy and the laity. The brief of the Evangelism workstream is to learn from each other and review the resources available and to try to use customs and events to bring church and community together. The Vocations workstream is trying to put together a portfolio. The Resources workstream was working to establish mutual support on such matters as buildings, churchwardens, stewardship schemes and administration.

At the April Synod, Rev'd Andy Poultney, the Youth Adviser to the Barking Area, reported that the Diocese has purchased a house and chosen potential theological students to live in with Andy and his family. They do work experience, shadow a vicar, learn to live as a community (not easy), develop their ideas and characters, finding out what they can and cannot do and then may go on to theological college. The parishes are encouraged to identify possible candidates for this scheme and others.

At the June Synod, Archdeacon Robin King and Malcolm Woods, DAC chairman described the work of the DAC as a statutory body for the care of churches. They have architects, archaeologists, history of art and architecture experts, historic building conservationists, structural engineers, arbour culturists, bells and bell frames experts, lighting and heating experts, clock experts, and experts on stained glass and the conservation of stained glass. The DAC gives free advice based on experience and expertise on the care and repair of the buildings. There has to be a balance between the needs of worship and mission, and the care and conservation of buildings and churchyard.

Key document requirements in preparation of a faculty application are the Statement of Significance and Statement of Needs.

- Statement of Significance: Why is the church special? Stained glass, furnishings and fittings, setting and location.

- Statement of Needs: Why is this work needed? Local needs (numbers), how often do you use it, etc.

On the question of grants, there is a tome produced bi-annually naming grant-giving bodies.

The House of Clergy elected the Rev'd Philip Tarris, Margaret Davis and Paula Griffiths to the Deanery Standing Committee. The House of Laity elected Graham Cook as Lay Chairman and Helen Eyles as Secretary. The position of Treasurer is currently vacant. Susan Howell, Peter Gray and Matt Lester were elected Laity members.

The Evangelism workstream are carrying out a survey of the clergy and what they are doing in the parishes. An idea is to set aside a Sunday when an evangelistic sermon is preached in every church. The Clergy will meet to discuss how to proceed.

At the October Synod, Nigel Bolitho, Evangelism Consultant, asked why sharing our faith is so difficult? Some of the answers were, not very British, out of practise, must not offend other faiths, lack of confidences, a fear of rejection, unsure of the reaction, general apathy and ignorance by the general public who by and large, have no idea what you are talking about.

He used a diagram of a large circle and a small circle in the middle (Mexican hat), the Good News, sent by God – the Gospel of the church in the middle and the messenger being sent from there to everyone in the larger circle.

Mission and evangelism go together. Why is evangelism important? Because it is the 'Good News'. We are in the same team as God. God has chosen all of us to work with him. It should be a privilege to share our faith. We have to find a way to communicate, the language over the years changes, the way we communicate changes, our spiritual side has not been tapped, we don't value things perhaps as we should.

With reference to the Resources workstream, Steve Hasler was appointed as Deanery Building Officer to provide advice to parishes.

The Deanery Service, with a theme of young people, was held at Henham on 15<sup>th</sup> October, ably led by Matt & Nicola Williamson.

*Clifford Want*