

## **DEANERY, DIOCESAN AND GENERAL SYNOD REPORT FOR APCM 2022**

### **DEANERY SYNOD**

Due to the pandemic, the meetings on 12<sup>th</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> July were held via zoom.

Meetings on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were held in person.

The new Area Dean. Revd Jeremy Trew, was welcomed at our meeting in May 2021.

The new Deanery Treasurer, Mr Tom Boardley was welcomed by Synod in October.

Regular agenda items include:

#### **Finance**

- particularly the issue of paying the Parish Share during the pandemic
- allocation of future Parish Share as a result of the ongoing Diocesan Consultation.

#### **Diocesan Synod Reports**

- Diocesan Synod meets 3x per year and representatives report back to Deanery Synod

#### **General Synod reports**

- Report from General Synod representative (each rep reports to 2 Deaneries)

#### **News from the Parishes**

- Vacancies and farewells to clergy
- Initiatives and encouragements in ministry

There is always a **topical presentation** led by an outside speaker or by the Area Dean.

This can take the form of group work. Topics covered this past year include:

- Exploring new ways of “doing church” in the light of the pandemic
- The ongoing development of the Deanery plan- group discussions led by Revd Trew
- A presentation on being an “Eco Church” led by Edward Gildea

Sandie Turner (Deanery Secretary & Deanery Standing Committee)

### **DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT**

Diocesan Synod met in person on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

There is always a Presidential Address from Bishop Guli.

#### **Topics presented/ debated include:**

- Racial Justice Task and Finish group Report: this report highlighted the need for churches to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.
- The ongoing dilemma of balancing funding and clergy deployment
- The annual budget was approved, and the Parish Share consultation was updated and noted.
- A motion brought by Braintree Deanery to ask General Synod to consider drawing up a Code of Conduct for PCC members and lay volunteers.
- Update on the Living in Love and faith process
- Report on sustainability and progress towards carbon neutrality for churches.
- There is time for questions which are put in writing ahead of the Synod. I have asked 2 questions.

Sandie Turner (SW Deanery lay representative on Diocesan Synod)

## **GENERAL SYNOD REPORT.**

General Synod met in person in November 2021 and February 2022.

There is always an address from the Archbishop.

### **Some reports are presented e.g.**

Racial Justice Presentation: Introduction to Archbishops' Racial Justice Commission and update on racial justice work. By Lord Paul Boateng  
Safeguarding Presentation

### **Some are "Take Note" debates e.g.**

Clergy Remuneration Report  
God's People Set Free Report

### **Some motions are raised by Diocesan Synods**

These eventually work their way to General Synod e.g.

- The Diocese of Durham moved that Synod "acknowledge the leading role that Her Majesty's Govt has played internationally in challenging slavery and asked the government to introduce legislation to ensure proper provision for the ongoing support and protection of trafficked minors is enshrined in law." This issue will be raised at the Lambeth Conference 2022.
- Another DSM ( Lichfield) called on the C of E to pray for the persecuted church and to address this issue at Lambeth Conference 2022.

### **And some business is legislation, e.g.**

"Faculty Jurisdiction ( Amendment) Rules 2022" - This bill outlined rule changes to enable churches to move to the ambitious target of being carbon net zero by 2030, following a commitment made by Synod in 2020. The aim of the changes is to ensure parishes consider environmental options when changing boilers for example.

Amendments concerning adding the replacement of boilers to List B rather than List A in a Faculty Application were narrowly defeated in a counted vote

However, an amendment making it easier to affix equipment for receiving wireless satellite broadband to church buildings was passed.

The amended motion was then passed.

**There are now 2 question sessions** and 147 questions were tabled.

Sandie Turner elected member of General Synod for Chelmsford diocese.