

# Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod

## Annual Report of Activity in 2022

*(for publication at APCMs in 2023)*

Deanery Synod met three times during 2022.

### **March – the Role of the Diocese with the Deaneries and Parishes.**

Synod met the new Diocesan Secretary David White, who gave an insight into his own life of faith and experience of worshipping in the Church of England. He outlined his vision for the diocesan office as existing for the purpose of serving the life of the diocese in its parishes, schools and chaplaincies. David also noted some of the challenges facing deaneries and the way in which deaneries are working together to support one another. There were questions about the diocesan financial situation post Covid and the challenge of attracting new people to church and encouraging congregations to return to worshipping in church. These questions generated much discussion.

Revd Rachel Wakefield gave a full report on the February General Synod which had discussed issues including Safeguarding; Facilities; Slavery and Human Trafficking.

### **July – Waterways Chaplaincy & Social Action.**

There was a presentation from Lorraine Newman, a local Waterways Chaplain. The chaplain's role is to be a visible presence along the waterways and to work in partnership with the boaters, the waterways authorities and outside agencies. Lorraine explained how she helped those in need living on the waterways with finding medical treatment and mental health support and linking them to food banks and other assistance.

This was followed by a presentation from Revd Sarah Forrest and Lyn Paddon from the Deanery Standing Committee who were leading on the Social Action Group. They talked about the Social Action activity in their benefice and the work they were doing with the Hertford Food Bank and with local homeless people.

Tim Crowther gave a full report on the recent Diocesan Synod which had covered the Environment Net Carbon Zero policy document, Wellbeing of Clergy, priorities for new housing development, safeguarding & finance. Colin Bird reported from the Diocesan Board of Finance, highlighting the financial deficits resulting from the pandemic caused largely by the reduction in the collection of Parish Share.

The deanery voted on a response to the Triennial Share Factor Review (voting to make no change on this occasion in view of the uncertainties brought about by the pandemic).

There were reports from the remaining Project Teams.

[www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk](http://www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk)

*Our vision is to see flourishing, Christ-centred communities  
inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to discover God,  
grow in their relationship with Him  
and respond to His transforming love through serving others.*

Mrs Marion Little, Deanery Secretary, [secretary@hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk)

## **November – Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust & Net Zero**

William Masterton from the *Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Historic Churches Trust* spoke about their fundraising via membership and the 'Bike & Hike' and how churches and parishes could apply for grants. Every parish and individuals were encouraged to join and support this organisation.

Mrs Emma Critchley, Diocesan Pastoral & Advisory Secretary spoke on church buildings and taking steps towards Net-Zero. She outlined the support and advice available from the Diocese and from the Church of England website. Her presentation was followed by a plenary discussion on the issues of maintaining old buildings and looking after the environment (God's creation).

The continued development of the Deanery Mission Action Plan and Project teams was also discussed.

## **Other News**

The parishes are to be congratulated on their excellent efforts in 2022 to pay Parish Share. Together, we contributed 97.58% of the request made of our deanery.

A Pastoral Aid Support Grant application for St Mary, Ponsbourne, was supported by the deanery for 2023, and it is expected that all the parishes will make their parish share payments in full through the year (2023).

The parishes of Thundridge and High Cross bade farewell to their vicar, Amanda Duncan, at the end of December 2022 and the process for finding new leadership for the parishes has begun. Please hold all concerned in your prayers.

Elections for deanery synod representatives are to be held at the APCMs in each parish. You may have heard that a limit on the number of consecutive terms of office was introduced, but this was subsequently removed. If an APCM wishes to impose its own limit, this can be done, otherwise, there is no limit to how many terms of office a person can hold.

We have the following project teams which would value new members with relevant expertise or interest:

- Fresh Expressions
- Social Action
- Environment
- Finance
- New Developments

The Deanery Synod is a conduit between parishes and the wider church and will continue to support, share and explore issues highlighted and offer support and advice and share best practices.

Marion Little  
Deanery Secretary  
March 2023