

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT ON 2023 MEETINGS - FOR APCM 2024

Initial presentations focused on the work of Synod with updates on the Diocesan Strategy and the Energy Footprint Toolkit which included the introduction of new resources with awards for eco achievements. We were asked to take stock of what has happened since covid and to focus on the vision for the diocese, which is growing, nurturing and serving our communities and to look at where we want to be in 2030. It was mentioned that the diocese are appointing clergy to work with people who worship in languages other than English. We are encouraged to look at the Diocesan website for full information and help on the Strategy and Toolkit and to see what achievements have already been made.

We have had two other presentations, the first on ministry among older people and those with dementia which included ways in which we can adapt our services to better include these members of the congregation and make them feel welcome and able to participate. We were also asked to do a church audit for any safety and security issues that may need addressing. I understand this has been undertaken at St. John's

Secondly, Ruth Gent (who has previously visited St. John's to speak to members of the congregation who work with children) gave a presentation on her role as an Enabler with the ManDio Growing Faith Programme in Manchester South and Stretford Deanery. Enablers work in C of E schools which have a church attached, building links between the children, parents and church and encouraging participation in church activities. Again, full details can be found on the Diocesan website.

A motion was put forward at the October meeting regarding safeguarding in the Church of England following the dismissal of members of the Independent Safeguarding Board by the Archbishop's Council without adequate provision to continue the work. The matter was to be discussed at the General Synod last November but it was understood that work was already being undertaken to find out what went wrong and feedback is expected at our next meeting (no date available yet).

Please remember that Synods are not closed meetings and all members of the congregation are invited to join us.

Irene Pennington and Carol Cosham