

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR APCM

MARCH 2020

The Deanery Synod continues to move the Anglican churches and Christians of Beckenham forward. We welcomed Revd. Gary Best to St. Mary's, Shortlands, Revd. David Jones to St. John's, Eden Park and said goodbye to Revd. Nigel Poole at St. John's, Penge. The Area Dean's term of office came to an end and he stood down in December 2019. Canon Jeremy Blunden is the new Area Dean with Revd. Gary Best as Deputy Area Dean. We also said goodbye to our Deanery Secretary, Helen Rendell in December.

In our March meeting, held at St. Paul's, Beckenham, Richard Truelove from the Diocesan Finance Committee came to talk about the Indicative Offer proposals. Treasurers had been invited and many voiced their concerns over various aspects of the proposal including the situations of vacancy, those unable to pay, and development projects, to name but a few. There was concern that less income would be generated for the Diocese under the new proposal than under the current system. The Area Dean thanked Christopher Town for his service as our Diocesan Board of Education representative for many years.

Our June meeting was held here at St. Mary's. Term Limitations for Lay Deanery Synod Members of a maximum of two 3 year consecutive terms was recommended by the Electoral Review group of the Church of England but this is still in consultation at present. This is in line with Churchwardens. The Indicative Offers proposal passed at the June Diocesan Synod. This will be based on the cost of the clergy in a parish, Diocesan Support costs and 10% of gross unrestricted income, including legacies. A lively discussion ensued but members were pleased to note that a review will take place before 2022.

Our October meeting was held at St George's, Beckenham where we discussed the 'Called to Growth' Diocesan Strategy which each parish needs to consider as their response will be linked to the deployment of clergy and Indicative Offers. We were asked how our churches are being a transformative power within our communities, and it was suggested that no growth occurs unless our churches are spirit filled. There was concern raised for the Night Shelter provision for the winter months for homeless people, based in Penge as help was required.

There is a lot going on in Beckenham Deanery, including the Deanery Confirmation Service held in October which showed the growth in our Deanery. We look forward to working together to further God's kingdom in this community of Beckenham.

Ann-Marie Jefferys

January 2020