

Deanery Synod Report for Annual Meetings 2021

1. General Organisation

Deanery Synod: The deanery comprises 43 parishes (about 30000 people in total) forming 9 benefices (please see accompanying sheet) and is the organisational tier between PCCs and the Diocesan Synod. It is led by the Rural Dean and the Lay Chair, and chairing Deanery Synod meetings usually alternates between them. Each parish is entitled to elect one or more official representatives to the Deanery Synod (number dependant on size) and does so at its APCM. Guests are very welcome at meetings but if there is a vote, only the official representatives can take part. Rep.s report to their parishes following meetings, and report any parish concerns to the Deanery as required by their PCC.

The Deanery Synod can ask parishes for funding through subscriptions.

The Standing Committee meets in the weeks before a Deanery Synod meeting to plan the agenda and discuss deanery business. Items suggested by PCCs for discussion at a Deanery Synod meeting should be sent to the secretary before the preceding Standing Committee meeting.

The secretary should also be notified of changes of parish representatives, as contact details are needed for correspondence.

The Standing Committee comprises the Rural Dean, the Chapter Clerk, the Lay Chair, the Deanery Treasurer, the Deanery Secretary, and anyone who represents the Deanery as a member of the Diocesan Synod. Thus:

Rural Dean: the Revd Canon Miranda Hayes (Welford benefice)

Lay Chair: Mrs Sheila Robertson (Yelvertoft)

Treasurer: Mr Neil Robertson (Yelvertoft)

Secretary: Mrs Janys Alexander 7 The Horsepool Lilbourne Rugby jkalexander51@gmail.com

Diocesan Synod Representatives (we are allowed five clergy and three laity members)

Clergy: the Reverends Graham Collingridge (chapter clerk); Stephen Trott, James Watson

Laity: Alan Chantler, Sheila Robertson, Bob Tomalin

The three Deanery Synod officers (Lay Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) are elected for a three-year period; 2020 should have been an election year, but the meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic so elections will be held at the May 2021 meeting (which will probably be by Zoom.)

Deanery Synod Meetings: When things are happening normally there are usually three Deanery Synod meetings in the year, and occasionally a social occasion may be added in the summer. Efforts are made to hold the meetings in different parishes, although this sometimes isn't easy. The church, church hall or village hall used should have wheelchair access, facilities and, ideally, sufficient parking nearby. It saves funds if a venue that doesn't have to be paid for can be used.

After an opportunity to chat over coffee and biscuits from 7.00pm, Deanery Synod meetings begin at 7.30pm with a short period of worship. Meetings are in two parts - a business section for updates on appointments or events in the deanery / diocese, and on financial issues such as the Parish Share or the Christian Aid collection; and a speaker or a discussion / activity. There may be a retiring collection, if it seems relevant to the evening's topic. A Fair Trade stall is often available.

2. Brixworth Deanery Synod Meetings May 2020- April 2021

DATE	VENUE	THEME	SPEAKER	PRESENT
14 th May 2020	Harrington	Meeting cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic		
15 th October 2020	Zoom	Discussion of how parishes were coping with the pandemic		24
12 th January 21	Zoom	Good things from a bad situation	Archdeacon Richard	27

Average 25-26

The business section of meetings 2020-2021 included reports that:

- The Revd David Reith was now Brixworth's incumbent; the Revd David Bent had been collated to the Walgrave benefice; and the Revd Graeme Anderson would shortly be instituted at the Crick benefice. The Revd Kris Seward had joined the Naseby benefice as a curate.
- The Diocese was likely to receive only about 75% of the total Parish Share, with very many parishes unable to pay because of effects of the pandemic. The sale of glebe land around Kettering would help to balance Diocesan finances. The Brixworth Deanery paid 74.26%, of its total, which was encouraging. Some parishes in the Deanery had managed to maintain full payments, and Clipston had given 110%.
- Most parishes had joined the Parish Giving Scheme.
- Deanery funds stood at a total of £559.
- Walgrave had acted promptly on a grants opportunity and had received £12000.
- Hollowell's stained glass window had featured on a Christmas 2020 postage stamp.

The theme of the two meetings centred on effects of the Covid 19 pandemic on parishes.

- Many had begun successful online services which often attracted more people than the usual congregation numbers, and/or were holding online 'events'.
- Some communities had started ventures such as pop-up shops, and there was generally a good community spirit
- Financial difficulties were common, due to no fundraising events, reduced collections, and few special services such as weddings.
- Pastoral care was more necessary than ever but more difficult than ever because of being remote – human touch not acceptable because of virus transmission.
- Everywhere, people were rising to the challenges in showing caring, adaptability, and determination
- There will be much to do when the pandemic is over, but we must retain the good things that have arisen in the last year while re-establishing normal procedures.

Meetings arranged for later in 2021, updated:

<u>Standing Committee</u>		<u>Deanery Synod</u>	
5 th May	Zoom	18 th May Election meeting	Zoom. 'Living in Faith and Love'.
6 th October	TBA	19 th October	TBA

*J. Alexander
Deanery Secretary
January 2021*