

Deanery Synod 2023-2024 – words for consideration for your APCM report

I would say that this year has been marked by a series of significant changes within the deanery.

We welcomed a new Rural Dean in Revd Catherine McBride and a new Assistant Rural Dean in Revd Jane Morris.

As we reported last year, we had three clergy vacancies so we have welcomed Revd Martin Heath to AMICA benefice, Revd Jane Morris was licensed as Vicar at Norton-in-Hales and Woore. Hodnet and Peplow will be joining the United Benefice (paperwork pending with the Church Commissioners) and then recruitment for a priest will start to support Revd Becky Richards and her new curate Revd Christine Alexander who we also welcomed to the deanery this year.

A further change came with the standing down of our long standing Lay Deanery Chair Richard Ancliffe after many years of service. This has left a vacancy and we would ask that you prayerfully consider if you would be able to support the deanery in this way or if you know of anyone else that you think would. The role is crucial in supporting the Rural Dean, Deanery Synod and involves a variety of meetings at deanery and occasionally episcopal level. You don't need to be a member of Deanery Synod though you do need to be on the electoral roll of a church in the deanery

Another change came as our Deanery Youth Mission Enabler Hannah Garside got married becoming Mrs Willson, and decided to stand down from her deanery role taking up a position with Shrewsbury Youth for Christ - we wish her and Peter many congratulations and pray for her in both her new roles! The Deanery has been reviewing the Youth Mission Enabler role and aspirations for it as well as undertaking work auditing what has been happening and how it can be built on. We are very thankful to all the supporters both financially and in prayer who continue to support our desire to serve God and the families, schools and youth in the deanery. If you would like to be involved, know more about this role including how you could support it, please speak to your deanery synod rep or minister.

It is amazing to see how God is moving in the Deanery, with children and youth, seniors, families and schools and more. We have worship communities expressed as Forest, Cafe, Dementia and Messy Church, Book of Common Prayer, baptisms, weddings, seniors groups, courses and of course Sunday and mid week services. The breadth of service to our communities continues, Praise the Lord. We continue to thank God for all those who serve in the many and varied capacities.

Our deanery mission continues to be a deanery:

- ...that is united in working together, whilst respecting and celebrating different traditions and contexts
- ...where all are seeking to go deeper in their personal journey with Christ
- ...where laity are equipped, trained and empowered to use their gifts to serve their churches and communities
- ...that models collaboration and sharing of resources, for the sake of mission across our whole area
- ...that resources new ministries to reach new communities
- ...where benefices have simplified structures and models for worship, reducing administration, encouraging partnership and releasing energy for mission

Lastly, please would you pray for your Deanery Synod reps, Jon Fell and Ann Parkinson for their commitment and service. Would you also pray for others to think about standing in this role.

Hodnet Deanery comprises: Adderley: St Peter; Ash: Christ Church; Calverhall: Holy Trinity; Cheswardine: St Swithun; Childs Ercall: St Michael & All Angels; Hales: St Mary; Hinstock: St Oswald; Hodnet: St Luke; Ightfield: St John the Baptist; Little Drayton: Christ Church; Market Drayton: St Mary; Moreton Saye: St Margaret of Antioch; Norton-in-Hales: St Chad; Peplow: The Epiphany; Sambrook: St Luke; Stoke-upon-Tern: St Peter; Woore: St Leonard

