

Deanery Synod Report 2019/20

It seems a very long time ago now but one of the first things that happened after the last APCM was that we held the Deanery Synod meeting for July 2019 at All Saints.

It was an evening of firsts, a Deanery Synod meeting held at All Saints and those attending were welcomed by our very own bell-ringers.

Sue and I were delighted that it was held at All Saints and were most grateful to Jackie for the refreshments and to Mandy for providing stewarding from the school car park.

Unfortunately to the Covid-19 pandemic we have not held any meeting since the beginning of this year 2020, but a summary of the meetings is detailed below;

July 4th 2019 All Saints Dogmersfield

The meeting discussed;

1. pMaps with Phil Dykes

Phil gave a talk/illustrated with slides on the pMAPs, describing it as an opportunity to explore creativity, helping churches flourish, move forward and to grow.

2. Overseas Mission – Marion de Quidt

Marion explained that the Odiham Deanery missionary work was to involve Myanmar and we would work in conjunction with the Southampton Deanery.

The Church of the Province of Myanmar in Asia is a member church of the Anglican Communion. The province comprises the entire country of Myanmar

The current Archbishop of Myanmar and Bishop of Yangon is Stephen Than Myint Oo.

3. Deanery Treasurer report – Colin Cohen

Colin spoke with regards to the lack of money being collected and that everyone must contribute to the Common Missionary Fund.

A lively discussion followed with reasons why parishes struggle;

4. Deanery Plans and Clergy Deployment – Angie Smith

There was discussion on how to deploy clergy across the Diocese, and the realisation that that the issue involves all in ministry, not just those ordained.

Angie provided an update on the group she was part of who had met for a series of 8 meetings, the last of which is on July 5th, to look at this. The baseline was the number of people in the Diocese, the numbers in the WC, and the number of stipendiary clergy. The group has been listening to people, not just clergy, but including retired clergy, LLMs, and BCMs.

6th November 2019 St. John the Evangelist, Hook

The meeting discussed

1. Diocesan Deployment Plan – Richard Elphick

Richard the Lay-Chairman gave an up-date from the Diocesan Synod Conference. The point of the conference was to try and work out how to continue to become a mission-shaped diocese, living the Mission of Jesus and sharing God's life in the world by looking at how best to deploy resources across the Diocese. Angie Smith is on the Deployment Working group.

2. Ideas to Help our Churches Finances – Jayne Tarry.

Jayne explained her role as Parish a Support Adviser and Pastoral Secretary and gave a very informative presentation on Grant funding and expanded upon a lot of the options open to Parishes.

3. Missions - Marion de Quidt

Marion had explained that next year 2020 as a Deanery two very energetic missions were planned with Odiham being the pilot, and that Southampton Deanery would be coming here.

Two key people would be visiting from Myanmar, Archbishop Stephen and Paul Hintya, principal of the theological college in February 2020, and it was proposed to hold a big event at which the Archbishop would be invited to speak.

Rev. Frog Orr-Ewing was also going to bringing a team to the Deanery to run a mission from the second May Bank Holiday (including Sunday 24th May) which would weave into the Novena of prayer for "Thy Kingdom Come".

9th January, 2020 St. John the Evangelist, Hook

The meeting discussed

1. Youth Ministry in Rural Churches – Helen Chatfield,

Helen is a youth pastor from ‘More to Life Churches’ and Lorna rural church representative – Four Marks/Alton.

Helen introduced herself and Lorna explaining that they are working together in collaborative youth work in rural parishes across the Deaneries of Arlesford, Alton and Odiham, known as United Youth.

United Youth is here to reach out to churches who have no Youth worker to say “we are here use us”, and where churches have a Youth Worker, to invite them to work together.

Helen and Lorna said their vision is to enable churches who have young people in their communities to lock into something bigger, the young people will find it fun if they can go to events where there are 20-30 people, rather than just a few.

2. Missions update – Marion de Quidt

An update was given regarding the mission link with Myanmar by Marion de Quidt and she introduced two speakers, Kim Foster from Hook and Angela Bushell from St Johns Hartley Wintney both who had visited Myanmar and gave very interesting talks on the Country, what life was like there and the struggles the Christian community has.

On February 16th there was to be a service at St Peter’s Yateley and all were invited where Archbishop Stephen from Myanmar would speak. (Richard attended the evening and Archbishop Stephen talked about his life, including his imprisonment and torture, and his subsequent encounter with the Archangels Michael and Gabriel).

There was a brief update re the Deanery Mission event in May from Weds 20th – Sunday 25th involving Odiham and Southampton. David Bishop of Basingstoke, Debbie Bishop of Southampton and Frog Orr-Ewing would be joining the events but due to Covid-19 these events were cancelled.

Sue Rumsey and Richard James

All Saints Dogmersfield Deanery Synod Reps.

October 2020.