

Deanery Synod 2020

Our Deanery Synod representatives from St Michael & All Angels' were Eleanor Relle and Jessica O'Sullivan at the beginning of 2020. Fr Neil attends Deanery Synods as the Vicar of St Michael & All Angels'. Elizabeth Bryson attends Deanery Synod because she is our representative on the M&M (Ministry and Mission) Group in the Deanery. Jessica resigned from the Deanery Synod at the end of August when she resigned from being Churchwarden. At our APCM in October 2020 Elizabeth was voted as our Parish Representative on the Deanery Synod and is now a voting member.

The Deanery Synod met on 25th February 2020 at St Martin's Church. It was announced that Eleanor Relle has been elected until August 2021 to serve on the Diocesan Synod, thus filling the Casual Vacancy.

The main focus of the February Meeting was "*Back to the Future*". Rev Chris introduced how we all face change and how we as a church respond to that change. We were told that Bishop Rose said "we cannot be effective in mission if our hearts are not singing". How do we cope with 21st century society? Everything must be underpinned with prayer. Rev Chris & Diane led the Postcard Game with feedback from parishes as to how they would like their church to look in 10 years' time. Peter Ingrams and Lyndall Bywater lead us in prayer and informed us about the Diocese Network Prayer initiatives.

There was no Deanery Synod Meeting in the Summer. The Deanery Synod were sent this email on 1st July with Reports attached:

Dear Synod Members

Welcome to email Synod - not a formal meeting obviously but a way to keep you up to date and able to support your parishes in the challenges ahead. Sorry there's no cake!

Please find attached the following documents:

- Introduction from Chris and Diane
- Discussion document from Diocesan team
- Minutes of previous meeting (previously sent but attached again for your convenience)
- Minutes of M&M meetings May and June
- Finance report
- Anna Chaplaincy report
- Eco Report
- Energy Footprint powerpoint

Thank you so much for taking the time to attend to Synod business in this way. Please get in touch if you have any queries, comments or concerns.

We very much look forward to seeing you in person before too long!

God bless
Diane and Chris

The next Meeting of the Deanery Synod was via Zoom on Monday 30th November. The role of the Area Dean was explained. Rev Chris Lavender is now Area Dean but as he is a full-time Vicar of two parishes he will not be able to do all that Rev Andrew Sewell achieved as a paid Area Dean for .5 of his time. The Area Dean role will be discussed in the parishes during 2021 and at the Deanery Synod at the end of 2021.

Elizabeth Bryson
Deanery Synod rep