

The Parish of St Mary, Storrington

Storrington Deanery Synod Report for APCM - 21 April 2016

There have been three Open Meetings of Storrington Deanery Synod since April 2015.

20 May 2015 at Rackham Old School

A presentation was given by the Revd Tessa Holland about the Quiet Garden Trust and her own Quiet Garden at *Wild Fortune*. It was announced that Synod was hoping to arrange for members to visit the Bishop's Palace at Chichester during July. There were reports about the Big Church Day Out at Wiston and the Deanery Strategy – Weddings and website. The Diocesan Synod Elections would take place in June/July and voting papers would be distributed.

12 November 2015 at St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School, Pulborough

There was no visiting speaker at this meeting but the Rural Dean reported on the Diocesan Strategy and the related Bishop's Charge. The headlines for the Diocesan Strategy launched at Pentecost 2015 were:

- Church growth – numerical and spiritual;
- Re-imagining ministry;
- Contributing to the common good;
- And the Bishop's Charge which reflected on the Strategy and asked parishes to address these topics with an annual project programme with:
 - 2016 – as the *Year of Mercy*, looking at the way each parish contributes to the common good and committing to a new project to address the community's needs;
 - 2017 – as the *Year of the Bible*, re-imagining ministry;
 - 2018 – as the *Year of Prayer*, to achieve numerical and spiritual growth.

Those attending the meeting split into groups of mixed parishes to discuss the above and feedback was given at the end of the meeting.

There was also a discussion regarding safeguarding.

23 February 2016 at St Mary's Church, West Chiltington

A presentation was given by Andrew Cunningham (Diocesan Accountant) and Gabrielle Higgins (Diocesan Secretary). Andrew gave a detailed talk and explanation about the Diocesan accounts and the parishes.

Approval of Deanery Accounts for 2015 and Budget for 2016.

Youth Work - the Revd Derek Spencer talked about the youth camps run by CYFA and said that his wife, Ruth, oversees most of the youth work in Thakeham now. He said that the young people attending were from various local parishes and that all were welcome to join in. He would bring some of the children to report to Deanery Synod later in the year.

Next Storrington Deanery Synod Open Meetings:

Wednesday, 8 June 2016 at Wiggonholt Church

Speaker: Canon Dr Ann Holt (new Diocesan Director of Education)

Thursday, 10 November 2016 at Old School, Storrington – speaker TBA.

Vivien Stuart

Secretary

Storrington Deanery Synod