

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT for the 2019 year to 2020 APCM

Brian Elphick, Simon Emerson, Gwen Fisher and John Taylor and are your lay Parish Deanery Synod representatives. Their role is to:

- Represent the views of our Parish within the Deanery
- To refer to the PCC information that is provided by the Deanery and news from other Deanery parishes.

Below is an overview of our Synod meetings in 2019 with a focus on the main speakers' talks.

April meeting St Peter and St Paul, Ashington

The Revd James di Castiglione talked about raising funds for the work of the church. He said that this was just one of our spiritual challenges and he wanted to sound a note of hope.

He pointed out that at Ashington 20 years ago the annual income was £1,400 and that last year it was £270,835! The congregation has grown quickly in that time – over the period Ashington has grown and there are now 7,000 people in the parish. During this time the church has worked in partnership with the parish council, the Ashington minibus, youth groups, and a toddler group. There are now just over 40 teenagers involved in the church and over 60 children at the 11 am service on a Sunday.

He said, we have had to think about our individual giving to the church. How much should we each give? In this the clergy should set an example. We have found it important to develop a vision for the future 25 years that each person can relate to. We and the Diocese must get serious about growing our congregations in order to increase income.

June meeting at St Mary's Church, Storrington

The Bishop of Horsham, the Revd Mark Sowerby, first talked about the meaning of the word 'visitation' and used the strap-line "to know, love and follow Jesus" as the basis of what he was seeking to find in the Deanery during the visitation that he had just completed.

In achieving this he had three aims that he talked to:

1. To grow the church both numerically and spiritually
 - a. Every benefice should have a plan for growth.
 - b. There must be a policy to plant churches in areas of need and opportunity.
 - c. Every Benefice must be self supporting and support grant giving
2. To re-imagine ministry and to increase the number of people in lay ministry
 - a. Create a greater variety of lay ministries
 - b. Develop a more collaborative clergy
 - c. Promote vocations and vocational training (The Year of Vocation is coming up)
3. To contribute to the common good.
 - a. Every benefice should conduct an audit of what is done now
 - b. Develop "one new thing" every year

November meeting at St Andrew and St Cuthman Church, Steyning

The Archdeacon, the Revd Fiona Windsor introduced the subject of finance and Credit for Mission with a video "Sharing in the Household of faith"; she stressed the importance of work with youth and the needy as part of Christian faith' – a copy of the video is available on the Diocesan website. She then introduced the Diocesan speakers and reminded the meeting that the total Parish Share is £14m and the Diocese has a deficit of £9m which needs to be made up...

Peter Lovett (Management Accountant) said that he was pleased to say our Parish Share as a Deanery is up to date. The Diocese is in the process of carrying out a £3m update of Parsonages. They are also looking to invest in the 156 Church schools in the diocese. There was also mention of the additional costs of ordinand training with increasing ordinand numbers.

Revd Windsor then commented that there are retirements in the future and we need more Priests. However, there will need to be more emphasis on Lay Ministry.

Catherine Dawkins (Diocesan Finance Director) then distributed the Diocesan Budgets for 2020 which she then explained. She pointed out that ideally Parish shares should rise by a further 15% to enable a Diocesan break-even. She asked those Parishes who could manage to achieve 100% that they should pay an extra 3% next year which only represented an allowance for inflation

Any questions on these talks or related Deanery matters should be addressed to your Deanery representatives.