

Report (v) Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod met twice in the year, 27th February and 24th September via zoom.

During the first lockdown it became apparent that many people in the Deanery did not have access to zoom making it difficult to keep in touch and share on line worship that was introduced by some parishes.

Area Dean, John Park kept in touch with as many parishes as possible by telephone and emails and encouraged us all to continue praying for one another and supporting each other where we could, sharing links to services both locally and nationally.

Changes during the year

Rev'd Catherine Pickford moved from St. Mary's Stannington in July to become Archdeacon of Northolt.

Rev'd Audrey McCartan was licensed as House for Duty Priest in Charge at St. Helen's Longhorsley in October.

Rev'd Jonathan Mason, Priest In Charge of the Upper Wansbeck group of parishes and Diocesan Adviser on Rural Affairs announced his retirement from the ministry in September

Rev'd Debbie Baker was licensed as Deacon in the Benefice of Cresswell and Lynemouth in October.

Tony Thick, Deanery Lay Chair stood down in December and moved out of the area.

Joyce Templey, Deanery Secretary stood down from her role in December, mainly due to her not being able to access technology.

Both Tony and Joyce were thanked for their dedicated and hard work in supporting the Deanery.

Finance was a major issue at both meetings especially Parish Share payments during this difficult year.

There was sharing of information and reflection on being "church" in the pandemic, parishes reflected on some of the positive outcomes of buildings being closed and registered the hope that some of these outcomes carry on in the future.

We heard from Jane Anderson a Chaplain with Newcastle Hospital Trust who reflected on her work during this difficult time.

The main item in September was a presentation by Rev'd Canon Rob Saner-Haigh who is the Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry.

Part of his work is the oversight of vocations and the development of different types of ministry, lay and ordained.

His presentation to Synod concentrated on a renewed emphasis on releasing all people's gifts and talents and encouraging parishes to begin to look at how God was calling us to be "church" in a post pandemic world.

There was a lively discussion after this presentation and issues raised would be prayed about and carried forward in the Transformation process the Diocese was presently working on.

Janice Robinson