

Deanery Synod Annual report 2023

Deanery synod meetings

We have had three meetings of the synod since the last APCM. All of these meetings were preceded by a short act of worship, which helped us to focus on God's love and the work of the church in the deanery. In June Revd Jeremy Auld presented Bishop Steven's address on climate change, given at the Diocesan Synod earlier in the month. We also had an update from Revd Dr Andrew Atherstone on General Synod matters. In November we welcomed Matt Bodinham, the chaplaincy team leader at the Marlborough CE School, Woodstock. Matt spoke about his work in the school. Currently this is partly funded by a diocesan grant, which will run out this year. We were asked whether any parishes who send students to the Marlborough School would think about contributing to financing this post. In March we met at Stonesfield where Charles Chadwick, our Parish Development Adviser, led small groups in discussing the key issues that should be included in our deanery mission action plan. This is due to be presented to the Mission and Pastoral Committee this summer.

Comings and goings

In September, Judy French, our archdeacon retired and some of us attended her farewell service in Dorchester Abbey. We are very pleased to report that our former Area Dean, David Tyler, has been appointed as our new Archdeacon. His collation was at Christ Church on Saturday 18 March at the 6.00pm Evensong service. David was formerly acting archdeacon, having been Assistant Archdeacon to Judy French before then.

We still have two benefices in vacancy: Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley, and Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington. These posts are being advertised currently and we hope to appoint before Easter.

Other things to mention

We had a successful Winter Bash in January when deanery synod reps and church officers had the opportunity to meet together to celebrate Burns night.

Deanery synod reps are due for re-election this year.

Stephanie Lacey March 2023