

## **Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Report for APCM May 2021**

Ruth and Peter Norris are our reps for the Deanery Synod. They were elected at the October 2020 APCM to stand for the next 3 years. The size of All Saints allows it to have a third member and we are seeking someone (possibly younger) who is interested in how the church hierarchy works and would like to know more. Is that you?

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices.

The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years.

The Deanery's role is to encourage and resource parishes to further mission and ministry, including through:

- Deanery Synod meetings (3 a year) include external input;
- An evaluation of sustainability and resources;
- The three-yearly cycle of parish inspections;
- Support for all parishes, encouraging use of the Diocesan Planning Tool, the Emerging from Coronavirus document and growth in online presence;
- An encouragement for parishes to offer collaborative ministry.

There were two meetings of the Synod since our last APCM:

**October 2020 on Zoom:** Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, spoke about her vision for the church in this area, encouraging us to be kingdom-focused, to celebrate what we have been given, and to celebrate all God's people. Members of the Synod commented on new ways of doing church and encouragements that had been seen during the pandemic.

**February 2021 on Zoom:** This was the first meeting of the new three-year Synod. The main topic was to discuss the draft Deanery Mission Action Plan.

### **Deanery Mission Action Plan (2021)**

There are five main focus areas.

1. The **Nurturing and Nourishing Disciples** section of the plan focuses on:

- Promoting Everyday Faith
- Supporting parishes as all emerge from Covid 19
- Promoting clergy wellbeing and spiritual development
- Supporting parishes as they engage with wider issues of diversity within the Church.

2. The **Engaging with Young People** section of the has three parts:

- Exploring the development of a chaplaincy post based at Altwood School, to include developing support in deanery parishes and a focus on well-being
- Exploring the possibility of a Youth Hub, based at St. Peter's, Furze Platt

- Develop a covenant for the process of CYP ministry across the Deanery, embracing a variety of ministries in school, home and parish

3. The **Re-imagining Church** section of the plan includes:

- Develop ways of building up existing church communities, alongside the development of, and support for new / fresh expressions, and emerging online presence.
- Build on the 'gains' of the pandemic through the further development of online worship and activities, and further lay leadership of various projects.
- Support parishes as they draw in people who joined church online as new and draw back those who have been distant during the pandemic.
- Supporting parishes in interregna – and learning together.

4. The **Making a Difference in the World** section main focus is on **Environmental Awareness and Action**. Bishop Olivia is taking the lead on this for the Oxford Diocese.

- Encourage, resource and facilitate parishes in local, national and international ministry, including collaborative projects.
- Encourage energy audits via Synod

5. The **Ongoing Evaluation of Sustainability** section of the plan includes finance and deployment of resources.

- To review the Deanery's current clergy deployment.
- To review the individual parishes' financial resources and re-evaluate the current Parish Share collaborative system, and to devise and agree a formula for application in future years.
- Explore more formalised collaboration between New Windsor Team / Dedworth / Clewer / Old Windsor.

If you'd like to know more about the working of the Deanery then please contact Ruth or Peter.

Ruth & Peter Norris, May 2021. 01753-869787