

COLESHILL & POLESWORTH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2021

Two meetings were held via Zoom and attended by our Deanery Synod reps James Westley, Michelle Withey and Alison Meredith.

The first of these on 25 November 2020 was the first meeting of the new triennium and the first since the appointment of Revd Canon Louise Shaw as Area Dean of the Coleshill & Polesworth Deanery.

Guest speaker Liz Dumain outlined her role within the people & Places structure providing Parish Mission Support, assisted by Emma Sargeant & Adam Larkin who deal with Ministry & Mission with Children & Families, Young Adults & Young People, also Damian Herbert & Abbi Wells who are concerned with Transforming Church Action Planning.

Andrew Schofield then outlined his role as Parish Buildings Surveyor for the Aston Archdeaconry, offering help and advice on a wide range of issues relating to church property

Archdeacon Simon Heathfield urged parishes to take advantage of these resources which are available free of charge.

Members also split into Break Out Rooms to discuss their hopes and aspirations for the new Deanery and the essence of these ideas was delivered as a "Wordle" at the next meeting on 10 February 2021.

Guest speakers on this occasion were Revd Guy Donegan-Cross & Revd Gail Rodgers who explained the thinking behind the project "Becoming an Everyday Faith Community" and how it will work. It aims to bridge the gap between church and the community, encouraging people to live out the gospel in every part of their lives.

Details were also shared of the Deanery Readers Group, overseen by Revd Carole Young and a new Churchwardens Group led by Roy Baker of Dosthill.

Adam Larkin gave news of plans for online half-term activities for children and a new resource "Share" created to help churches disciple their young people.

Discussion in Break Out Rooms focused on reviewing the past year. It highlighted the problems of communication for and with those without online access and the increasing gulf between those who were busy and others whose life has been on hold, as well as the disparity in financial circumstances.

Alison Meredith

Deanery Synod Rep