

APCM Deanery Synod Report

Purpose of the Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod sits between Parish Councils and Diocesan Synod in the church hierarchy; Wadsley is part of the Hallam Deanery, which covers a wide area of 14 churches, from Ranmoor to Owlerton, via Broomhill and Stannington. The deanery synod serves the purpose of communication between the diocese and the parish, and in theory gives voice to opinions in the parish at a higher level.

The synod meets roughly four times a year, this year we have discussed the fallout of the Bishop North issue, social action across the diocese, the practice of mission partnerships, welcome in our churches, and had an evening of prayer and worship.

There is opportunity to vote for the subjects covered in upcoming meetings – midweek worship, small groups, the historical relevance of the reformation, or having conversations about our faith- please let Josette or I know if you have an opinion; these may be open meetings which anyone can attend.

The next meeting will be on the use of social media in church, and this is an open meeting – please speak to us if you want to attend.

Changes

There are currently three vacancies in the deanery, although two of the three are on the way to appointing people to interim three year posts. The seat of Area Dean is currently vacant, but is being advertised attached to the permanent post for a vicar at St John's Ranmoor.

Highlights of the year

These have included a moving evening looking at the social action projects around the city, including Food Cycle, and The Archer Project, and the Soup Run. It was good to know what work goes on, and this would allow us to become more involved or ask for further information if we as a church or individuals felt moved to engage with issues, especially of poverty and homelessness we see in our society.

Another highlight was hearing from churches how they 'do' welcome, which provided good advice and ideas.

Josette and I both really enjoy being deanery synod reps and the opportunity to meet people from across the area, to learn and listen, and share friendship and fellowship in prayer.

Vision for the year

Please do make the most of the opportunity to engage with the cogs of this synod and speak to us about the issues and meetings as invited to above.

Prayer for the year ahead

Please pray for the churches in vacancy (Ranmoor, St Barts, St Timothy's) for the time in interregnum to strengthen not break the people, and for the right people to be appointed to lead the churches forward.

Pray for the continued working and relationships between churches, especially those within our mission partnership.

For the Church Of England as a whole, and those who lead it, for all the decisions which are being made, especially those which bring the church into debate with society; pray for God's wisdom and integrity to stand, and His protection over all.

Fiona Huty