

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT ON 2024 MEETINGS - FOR APCM 2025

There were only two meetings during 2024 instead of the usual three. These were in July and December. A presentation given by the Archdeacon on Mission and Ministry Among Asylum Seekers dealt with the inaccuracies in the media around the asylum process and brought to our attention the Church of England guidance available to clergy who support and minister to those in the asylum process in their congregations.

Updates on the Diocese and Deanery Transformation Programme, at the December synod, included discussions on how the deanery can support and encourage our mission of growing, nurturing and serving. It also included the progress made in different areas of the strategy of 'Our Vision for 2030'. Bishop Mark said there have been many challenges but things are beginning to change for the better. Comments made by each Mission Community group on how they perceived problems and their thoughts on the best way forward to bring people into church were noted and are to be taken into account when planning for future growth.

Following on from a previous presentation, after Easter the diocese is to run a pilot for six parishes to be registered for 'dementia friendly church'.

As always, synods are not closed meetings and all members of the congregation are invited to join us.

Carol Cosham and Irene Pennington