

Report of Deanery Synod 2021

Due to the continuing pandemic and the Diocesan re-organisation of Deaneries, there were only three synod meetings during 2021. The first one of these was in January and was the last of the former Stretford deanery and the others were the first of the new.

The main topics at the January meeting were further presentations regarding the re-organisation and the winding up of the old Deanery. As part of this process, it was decided that the bulk of the monies in the bank be distributed back to the parishes by means of a credit to their parish shares.

The new Deanery of Manchester South and Stretford came into being on the 1 June and Rev. Nick Watson is the new Area Dean. He and his family are now living in our vicarage. The first meeting of the new Synod took place on the 30 June via 'zoom'. Dr Addy Lazz-Onyenobi presided as the new Lay Chair along with the Area Dean. Officers were elected, and Yvonne Mackereth became Deanery Treasurer. Presentations about the deanery restructuring were made by the Archdeacon, Karen Lund and Bishop Mark Davies. Comments on the restructuring process were invited as part of "Getting to know you" sessions that were also included. We felt that these were not very successful due to the limitations of 'zoom'.

The next meeting in September, again held over 'zoom', had presentations made by Alison Moore and Jamie Mackenzie. Alison spoke about COVID and its difficulties and restrictions, whilst Jamie spoke about training sessions for those wishing to become ALMs (Authorised Lay Ministers). He was keen to make people aware that the various modules could be taken individually by folk who were not necessarily wanting to become ALM'S.

It was confirmed that All Saints and St Matthews Stretford have now been included in our Mission Community. Subsequent to the Synod meeting, it was announced that Rev. Luke Maguire from All Saints, Stretford will be our Missional Community Leader. He will undertake training for this role during the early part of 2022.

It was also confirmed later in the year, that Yvonne Mackereth has been elected as Lay Chair of the Diocesan Synod.

The new Mission Communities came into being on the 1 January 2022, but we will be working with the Area Dean and our Mission Community Leader to establish the optimal governance structure for us. Parish boundaries will remain and each parish will have a 'focal leader', who will be appointed during 2022.

We await developments!

Carol Cosham, Janice Mortimer