

Deanery synod report April 2023

Deanery synod has been considering the Deanery Development Plan over the year. This involved each parish answering a detailed questionnaire on their activities and aspirations and lessons learned during Covid. We collated the responses from our parishes and the results from each parish were then collated. However this has not yet resulted in a plan.

Areas which we are being asked to think about further are the kinds of ministry we want to pursue in our parish and widening our vision to encourage new forms of ministry which are wider than stipendiary posts with more lay involvement. Whilst most parishes are paying the majority of their parish share there is still a deficit for the deanery of £25K.

Rev Simon Talbott retired as Rural Dean and Rev Michael Wilcockson from Linton was appointed in his place. During the year, Revd Paul Seaton-Burn was instituted as Team Rector of the Linton Group of parishes, Revd Dr Julie Norris as half-time Vicar of Great Shelford and Revd Mandy Flaherty as half-time Vicar of the Harston/Hauxton/Newton group of parishes. Whilst Julie's appointment represents a reduction in the Great Shelford role, Mandy's appointment represents an increase in the Harston role, her predecessors having held the post on a House for Duty basis.

Mental Health has been a focus for the deanery. Courses in Mental Health First Aid have been offered - along with one for Youth leaders.

The deanery had a most helpful talk from Mike Kelly the diocesan development officer for youth. His research showed that 80% of Christians come to faith before the age of 18. But worryingly nearly 70% of parishes in the diocese report no children or young people in their congregations. The Youthinc initiative in our deanery is addressing this with the appointment of Felicity as a part time worker and there are several new ventures involving young people including some in our parish. So there are encouraging developments as well as challenges.