



The Deanery of Greater Dudley
Deanery Synod
Wednesday 13th March 2024
*****Please Note*** 7.15 pm for a 7.45 pm start**
St Peter's Church Centre
Pedmore Lane, Stourbridge, DY9 0SW

AGENDA

*Parking very much restricted – curb-side, on a major route.
Start time pushed-back to accommodate the hall's previous hiring*

1. Welcome and opening worship, including a time of looking at Scripture together

Rural Dean (Rev.) Andrew Sillis led a meditation on 2. Thessalonians 5.12-25

2. Good News stories: Please contact the Deanery Secretary with any good news stories that will encourage us all: meldrose@live.co.uk

'Good News' came from_

i) (Rev.) Clair – who mentioned the success of her "Singing Angels" group on Sunday afternoons (35) [a.k.a. Community Choir]

ii) (Rev.) Nick (Old Hill) – whose association with local artists for a Nativity play has led to encouraging the use of art and painting in developing links within church and within the local community

iii) (Rev.) "Old Dean" (Quarry Bank) – who was developing a 'young toddlers' drop-in group for 6<12 months to underpin their pre-school group.

3. Diocesan Priority: To underpin [the other diocesan priorities] by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing training and development opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

Quality training and support for our ordained and lay ministers is essential for the thriving of our churches. This evening, we will consider how we can nurture new vocations and future leaders, support those currently in training, and, of course, continue to develop and support all our ministers at every stage of their ministry.

For more information on the agreed Diocesan Priorities visit the Worcester Diocese website <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/setting-priorities-for-the-coming-years.php>

The priority given priority at this synod was Supporting Ministers in the Diocese.

*'Lay Ministry' – and how PCCs should advance and support those called to these positions. How to "recognise 'the nudge'." *Memo* Ask how successful we have been ?*

'Discipleship Pathways' are unique to each person – and can last for months or years, so 'be prepared' for a long slog.

Consider how we take the 'occasional worshipper' into being 'congregation' through encouragement and sharing responsibilities. Don't be afraid to give up a job to others. Remember the '80/20' analysis – of 80% on the work being done by 20% of the people.

**Beware new Vicars and established Readers.* and a clash of roles, insights and aspirations. !!*

Kath Davis gave a good explanation of the roles of ALMs and LLMs. and their training patterns and responsibilities. How involved has your PCC been in supporting their training?

Consider also the support being given to your present Priest – question and review – particularly during inter-regnum periods. !!

*(Rev.) Adam spoke of moving into Ordained Ministry and how to “join”.
We must each “own the traditions of our respective churches”.*

Within GDD some 6 priests are leaving – including our own RN after a lifetime of service, some 28 years.

4. News, Notices and new items of business

Please notify the Deanery Secretary in advance of the meeting if you have items for this section: meldrose@live.co.uk

5. Praying Together for the Life of the Deanery and its Parishes & Diocese

6. A Report from General Synod which met in February 2024.

Lynn Nichol – a Worcs. Diocese Rep. to the House of Laity – highlighted the first four days Sessions (of 8) in a comprehensive report (available for e.transmission if requested).

7. Praying Together for the Life of the Deanery and its Parishes & Diocese

Prayer and The Grace.

Date of Next Meeting: **Tuesday 15th October 2024** – 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Christ Church, Church Road, Coseley, WV14 8YB

Theme: “Doing ordinary Church well”

Some churches in our deanery are getting additional support at the moment from the National Church’s Strategic Development Fund. This funding was granted to support diocesan priorities, and its scope goes far beyond the Renewal Churches priority. It is a diocesan principle that there is something for every church that wants to grow. We’re going to be sharing good practice that every church, small or large, can adopt to grow their congregations.

Please share the date with PCCs and others and invite them along.

I have 5 spare seats in my vehicle for those wishing to come – parking there is apparently as problematic as at St. Peter.

As I was leaving I accompanied several (elderly) ladies and overheard their conversations_

- *Well, that wasn’t for me*
- *Yes, I won’t be attending any more Synod meetings*
- *Its all so changed*
- *I can’t relate to what’s going-on*
- *More like a ‘Party for Priests’ than for we congregation-members*

So that’s 6 or so ‘good-ladies-of-the-parish’ lost to Deanery Synod who had shown their commitment by travelling, in the winter, in the dark, from far-off locations, to attend the meeting – hardly the outcome Andrew had in mind.

*But then, given their ages, they are hardly likely to apply for ALM/LLM courses .. so ..
“No loss ?”*