

## Deanery Synod Report for the PCC AGM (2021)

The decision of Bishop+John to revise the format of Deaneries within his Diocese has meant the reduction of 16 Deaneries down to 6.

In the north of the Diocese this has meant the combining of Stourbridge (our Deanery) with those of Kingswinford and Dudley into one, new faculty, to be known as “Greater Dudley”.

Our historical links and allegiances (Bellbroughton and Fairfield) led to our being placed in the Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery – itself having been enlarged. Neighbouring parishes (Broome, Blakedown and Churchill) expressed the wish to transfer to the Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery. The congregation was consulted and the PCC debated all variety of options, settling on asking to join more closely with Hagley parishes (St. John and St. Saviour) and so become part of ‘Greater Dudley’ with them and with other nearby churches (Pedmore, Wollescote, etc).

The realignment became effective from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, with the new **Rural Dean** for ‘Greater Dudley’ being **Revd. David Hoskin** - Rector of the Brierley Hill Team and previously Rural Dean of Kingswinford: also Director of Reader Training, as well as an Hon. Canon of Worcester Cathedral (Jan. 2019).



Joining his team will be **Revd. Andrew Sillis** from St. Thomas, Stourbridge -



and **Revd. Rachel Newell** from the Dudley Team Ministry:



as well as **John Nicholson** (St. Michael, Norton) as Lay Chair and **Mike Bishop** – (St. Andrew, Wollescote) as Treasurer. Both are members of the Diocesan Synod.

The inaugural meeting of ‘Greater Dudley’ took place via Zoom when personnel were announced and voting took place.

I have ‘stood down’ from becoming Secretary to this much enlarged body which, because of the increased workload, and the Rural Dean’s concept of the position being divided between several workers who would share his new and dynamic vision of the direction for the Deanery (as well as the routine work of the Synod), was suitable for those with ‘fresh’ and ‘vibrant energy’ to fulfil the role. I can now concentrate all my efforts upon my own parish - while bringing considered insight to Deanery proposals.

I look forward to sharing this future with a fellow representative from amongst you: I will assure you it will not be (too) dull !

Harry Grove  
*Deanery Synod representative*