

Deanery Synod Report (reflecting on 2021)

Deanery Synod met 3 times during 2021 and it was a relief by the end of the year to be able to meet in person at St Johns Church.

The Living in Love and faith course has been spoken about across the deanery and diocese, with congregations encouraged nationally to engage with the material. Issues of human identity, gender and sexuality have been discussed using the course by parishes who chose to follow it, and on the whole it was seen to be a useful tool for helping people of differing views to understand each other better.

In July a useful discussion took place to consider the 'Five marks of Mission': To proclaim the Good news of the Kingdom, to teach, baptise and nurture new believers, to respond to human need by loving service, to seek to transform unjust structures of society and to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Groups were asked to discuss how far their churches are able to focus on each of these, but it was acknowledged by all that the pandemic has greatly restricted much of what can be done.

In November Liz Mullins , the Generous Giving Adviser for the diocese, gave a lot of helpful, practical advice for enabling churches to engage in stewardship campaigns

This was Archdeacon Paul Wright's final full year before retirement in March 2022 and we wish him all the best for the future and thank him for his support and ministry (more to follow in next year's report!)