

During 2022 three Deanery Synod meetings were held.

At the deanery meeting held on 27 April 2022 in All Saints Church, Kenton the guest speaker was Brigit Kiyaga, Mission Resources Adviser for the Diocese of Exeter. Her presentation was based on three practical steps – **Gratitude**, **Generosity** and **Giving**. It involved evaluating what is going well and what could be better. Gratitude was about responding to God's generosity with thanks and discipleship. Generosity involved responding to God and others with acts of kindness, looking at impact and need and direction and focus. Brigit also mentioned the various mechanics to facilitate financial giving: Digital, Legacy, Parish giving scheme and Grant applications.

With the invited speaker unable to attend the 13 July 2022 meeting at St Catherine of Alexander Church, Whitestone deanery representatives from the parishes within Kenn Deanery shared about children's work [post-covid] within their respective communities – especially towards the contribution via family focused church events, services and through local schools e.g.: via Messy Church; Open the Book; seasonal Christian festival services e.g. Christmas / Easter / Platinum Jubilee etc.; positive contact with local non-church affiliated schools as a consequence of the pandemic; and the number of children [currently 50–60] now relating to the St Basil's 'Fresh Expression of Church'. In addition, the Revd Jane Frost [on behalf of the Haldon Mission Community] highlighted about the success of the monthly Family Praise informal services being held at Teignmouth [St Michael] and for plans for this to be developed across the team – all this following on from the adjustment in the times of services hosted within the Mission Community.

At the start of the meeting held on 12 October 2022, hosted at Powderham Parish Church deanery synod representatives were welcomed by the new Rural Dean, the Revd Ruth Frampton. She also welcomed the new curates [ordained in September 2022] to the meeting, including the Revd Elizabeth and the Revd Peter Burren. Guest speaker, Katie Drew then provided a presentation about the work undertaken through The Melanesian Mission; an Anglican mission agency that provides support to the Anglican Church of Melanesia through prayer, people and giving. Katie provided a brief history and the links with Devon through the work of the first Bishop of Melanesia, John Coleridge Patteson, who came from near Ottery St Mary in East Devon; and of the current work including the dramatic effects of global climate change to these islands in the Pacific Ocean.

At these meetings there are also the financial report updates on the contribution towards parish share payments etc; an update of Diocesan Synod business through comprehensive reports submitted by the Revd Ruth Frampton and circulated to all members; and the deanery's contribution towards the upkeep of churches through the Devon Historic Churches Trust event hosted in September accompanied by the 'Ride & Stride' fundraising initiative. With the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022, some events planned for Saturday, 10th September 2022 were postponed until a later day. With the Devon Historic Churches Trust dates also clashing with the Ordination Service at Exeter Cathedral, the local 'Ride & Stride' event was deferred until 17th September 2022.

Anna Venables

Elected lay member West Teignmouth [St James] and Kenn Deanery Standing Committee member [January 2023]