

Kenn Deanery Synod Report of business conducted during 2023 for APCM's

During 2023 three Deanery Synod meetings were held.

At the deanery meeting held on 19 April 2023 in Longdown Village Hall, the guest speaker was Sue Lockwood, Director of Exeter Diocesan Board of Education. Her very informative presentation via PowerPoint provided examples of their vision: **Nurture** vision-inspired education; **Nourish** personal and spiritual growth; **Enable connected communities that flourish**, and using these three signposts to promote or assist in the promotion of education in the diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England. Further information is available via the Diocesan of Exeter web site, and in the questions and exchange of information following her talk that evening, it was noted that most churches from across Kenn Deanery already had close links with local schools.

Teignmouth [St James the Less] Church hosted the synod held on 25th July 2023 and representatives attending the evening were also able to interact with the 'This Is My Story' diocesan exhibition being hosted inside the church too. The guest speaker for the evening was Tim Wigley, on behalf of **Christians Against Poverty [CAP]**. Providing video links to human stories relating to the ruthlessness of poverty and the impact it had to the individuals / families, and how through CAP workers and befrienders, witnessing lives transformed through helping with the management of household budgets and provision of links with social services and other organisations where required to help support them in their current circumstances.

The Synod held on 18th October 2023 was hosted Dawlish [St Gregory the Great] Church. The opening worship was led by their music group using material directly relating to **Anna Chaplaincy**. Annie Jefferies provided an entertaining but challenging talk relating to the spiritual care and well-being of older people; and adding that there are now more people aged 85 + than under 5's across the county of Devon today!

Prayer plays an important part of deanery synod business, and at the October 2023 meeting Annie Jefferies encouraged all parishes to use the Bishop4Devon prayer card; and the Rural Dean highlighting the diocesan 'Call to Prayer' event being hosted at Exeter Cathedral in December 2023.

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.

Kenn Deanery Synod Secretary [April 2024]