

COGGES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Deanery Synod Report (APCM 2017)

Since the last APCM Witney Deanery Synod has met twice, in May (at St Mary's Cogges) and October (St Mary's Bampton). Cogges is now represented by Barbara Eaton (also a member of Diocesan Synod) and Elizabeth Knowles, Mark Kingston having stepped down during the year. Rev Toby Wright, Rector of Witney, remains Area Dean, and the Lay Chair is Kevin Rillie.

Archdeacon Judy French attended the meeting at St Mary's Cogges, and gave us a helpful overview of the last two years of episcopal 'Interregnum', and the key role taken by Bishop Colin. She noted that key posts were being filled, and highlighted Bishop Steven's stated priorities of children and young people, the poor, and developing lay ministry.

Witney Deanery has continued to work on the Deanery Mission Action Plan, now with awareness of these priorities. (Work for children and young people includes work on schools ministry at a deanery level.) Rural ministry (and the challenge of new building increasingly placing people away from direct proximity of churches) continues to be a consideration. Current structures will not serve new communities; however, we need to be aware of the important ministry carried out to rural communities by small churches. All parishes have contributed to the plan with a statement of their own key priorities.

Finances continue to be a matter of concern (and for some churches a real difficulty), but the outgoing Treasurer Sue Campbell has reported with pleasure that Witney Deanery's Parish Share has once more been paid in full.

As before, the two meetings have blended prayer and bible study with 'business', and there is an active missional focus for the evenings. We continue to benefit from updates on what has been discussed at General Synod.

Barbara Eaton and Elizabeth Knowles, Witney Deanery Representatives