**Amersham Deanery Synod Report 2023**

The Amersham Deanery Synod meets quarterly and in person in various churches in the Deanery. Peggy Ludlow continues as the sole Area Dean, with Lawrence Tebboth (Jenny’s husband) as the Lay Chair. There have been some interesting presentations and discussions this year, including the mysteries of the workings of the General Synod!

At the September 2022 meeting, there were presentations from Hannah Mann, from the Oxford Diocese Environmental Team, and Keith Wood-Smith, from Chalfont St Giles. Hannah spoke about the Diocese’s response to climate change, and gave many examples of what churches are doing to Care for Creation, including hosting a repair café, creating a community garden, tree planting and setting up an eco-hub. Keith explained how Chalfont St Giles achieved their silver award from A Rocha, and the need to get the whole church community engaged.

At the November 2022 meeting the focus was on the finances of the Deanery and the Parish Share allocation, and a presentation on the workings of the General Synod. Julie Dziegiel went through the Parish Share allocations within the Deanery, with some minor changes to harmonise with the Diocese. There was some discussion on the decision to use 2019 October numbers of weekly attendance for 2020, especially as the number attending has decreased for many parishes since COVID. The calculation of the ‘wealth index’ has changed to use the IMD Income score, which provided some surprising results. Jeremy Moodie, a General Synod member, gave an informative introduction to the organisation and workings of the General Synod, and a summary of the meetings in November 2021, and February and July 2022. There was also an update from Honduras.

At the March 2023 meeting the Amersham Deanery Budget for 2023 was accepted, and two local churches presented how they are supporting their communities. St George Little Chalfont described their Food Hub, but also the impact of keeping their church open and having volunteers to support visitors who needed help or just to talk. St Thomas Holtspur talked about the Dove Café and their successes and lessons learnt. Both were inspiring and enthusiastic about how these initiatives support their communities. There was a brief update from Jeremy Moodie on the February 2023 General Synod meeting, and what is expected from the July meeting.

Slides of presentations can be found on the Amersham Deanery Synod website. Amersham Deanery - Home Page

Linda West will be standing down as one of our Deanery Synod representatives, so a new representative will be elected at the APCM. We thank her for her many years of service in this role.

All Deanery Synod meetings are open, though only Synod members can vote, so do watch the pew sheet for any talks which interest you. The Deanery Synod is an important part of the working of the Church of England, so please do pray for its work, your present representatives and for more people in our congregation to become interested in being Synod members.

Janine Dunnell

Deanery Synod representative

April 2023