

## **Deanery Synod Report, APCM 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2020**

The Dartford Deanery Synod is a forum for the Church of England Churches in the Dartford and Swanley area. It meets three times a year to worship together and promote unity and fellowship in mission and ministry, and to discuss matters of shared concern. In this reporting period (15/4/2019 to 18/10/2020) the Deanery Synod had five meetings scheduled.

On 19/6/2019 we met at St Mary's, Swanley. After worship, led by Father Dane, and an introduction to St Mary's, we had a guest speaker, Helen Stevens, from A Rocha. She introduced a Christian view of the environment and the A Rocha eco-church scheme. This was the first deanery synod I chaired as Area Dean.

16/10/2019 we met at St Peter's Hextable. On this occasion the (then new) archdeacon, Andy Wooding Jones came as a guest to introduce himself, and to give a bit of personal background and a sense of his vision for the role.

On 12/2/2020 we met at St Margaret's Darent. Rev Emma Young led worship and introduced the Darent Valley Benefice. That evening, Rev Kenneth Clark gave an explanation of the synodical government of the church of England, saying how PCCs, Deanery Synods, Diocesan Synods and General Synod function and interact. The intention following that was to identify matters of concern which the Deanery Synod could raise to Diocesan Synod so as to become more proactive in achieving its aims.,

We were due to meet on 17/6/2020 but were still coming to terms with lockdown, and so cancelled that meeting.

We also have a meeting scheduled for 14/10/2020. At the time of writing this has yet to happen but we will use the opportunity, meeting on Zoom, to reconnect and to update reps about the rescheduling of General Synod and Diocesan Synod elections. Deanery Synod reps are being replaced/ re-elected at the current round of APCM's so, when these are in place, we can schedule the next series of meetings and the voting for Diocesan Reps, at the appropriate times.

*Richard, 11/10/2020*

