

Deanery Synod Report for APCM 24th April 2017

There were 3 Deanery Meetings in the past year, with our PCC having 2 elected places. **At the June meeting** the Assistant Rural Dean spoke about the proposed tightening of procedures with more rigorous checking and monitoring of Parish records and finances by the Archdeacon, assisted by the Rural Dean. **Deanery Plan Progress:** Prom praise was very successful with 90% of tickets sold. The Community coach had been sold for £3,500, which, together with grants of around £50,000, enabled a single-deck bus to be purchased to continue this ministry, serving the Deanery. **Men's Ministry** would include an event at Ferndown in March 2017. **Eco Church:** Dr Ruth Valerio, a director of A Rocha UK, spoke enthusiastically about the responsibility of Christians to care for all creation. She introduced an Eco Church award scheme, based on an online survey in line with the **5th Mark of Mission** (To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the Earth.)

The November 2016 meeting considered updates on the **Deanery Plan**. Revd. Heather Waldsax spoke about the QE project-young-vocations, engaging 6th formers to provide voluntary help in local parishes. **Sudan:** We were reminded of present troubles there. Although there were continuing contact problems, it was important the people are not forgotten locally, nor at Diocesan/General level. **New Dorset Communities:** With the probability of much new housing within the next 3-7 years, it was important to speak with developers about the possibility of planting churches and new church schools. It was recommended that this item appear on PCC agendas. **Vocation and Discipleship:** Consideration was given to how we might nurture Discipleship, especially as we will require another 60 priests soon. (See note of March meeting below). **Musical Worship:** Revd Heather Waldsax is the Deanery music rep. Following the huge success of the Lighthouse event, a Radio Solent "Songs of Praise" recording had been arranged at Milton Abbey. **Safety & Safeguarding:** from 2017 the Arch Deacon's triannual inspection of Parishes will also cover Safeguarding and Health & Safety. These should feature regularly on Parish agendas as well as Mission Action Plans.

At the March 2017 meeting we were encouraged to support a "Come and Sing" event, Stainer's "The Crucifixion" in the Minster and Bach's St. Matthew Passion at the Poole Lighthouse. **Sister Debbie Orriss**, the Diocesan co-ordinator of LLMs, Lay Worship Leaders and LPAs gave a talk: **'Discipleship: help or hindrance?'** Part of the lively presentation involved sharing what helped us to learn and grow in faith. It is a life-long journey of formation into the likeness of Christ and learning to grow together and living out our faith. **Treasurers Report.** The share for 2016 had been paid in full by all churches in the Deanery, bar one. The 2018 budget is hoped to be capped at 2.5%. (Note: a stipendiary priest costs £65k pa, taking into account Stipends, N.I., pensions and housing). CAF bank account holders were experiencing difficulty with the closing of a number of HSBC branches. **Sudan.** £2,300 had been forwarded to Yambio and Nzara in response to their appeal. **Rural Dean's Matters.** Bishop Nicholas is urging financial help for Sudan. Further collections to support his appeal will go via Salisbury to Christian Aid. Revd Patches Chabala added extra information about the situation in South Sudan, describing the challenges of displacement, uncertainty, hunger due to drought and no peace. **Please pray for them.**

Chris Heppenstall & John Bentall April 2017