

HITCHIN DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2024 FOR ALL SAINTS APCM

Five meetings were held in 2024, at different churches – St Faith’s Hitchin, St George’s Letchworth, St Mary’s Stotfold, St Thomas’ Letchworth, All Saints Willian

There were visiting speakers, usually with a presentation and an opportunity to ask questions, from:

The Dispute Advisory Service. Started in this Diocese in 2019, the DAS provides a safe, neutral space where anyone who is going through conflict, bullying, harassment, discrimination or other difficulties can talk through the situation with a skilled adviser.

Anna Chaplaincy. Anna Chaplains support older people spiritually and emotionally, also encouraging cross-generational encounters in their churches and in the wider community for the benefit of people of all ages. They aim to complement and run alongside, rather than replicating or replacing, ministry already being done by churches.

St Albans Diocese Local Church Income Support Officer – on ways of making money out of church assets; there are five main income streams - giving, grants, investments, fees and income generating. Concentrating on income generating from a church’s assets, these included hiring out halls – and thinking imaginatively as to potential clients; car parking spaces; etc.

Senior HR Business Partner at HR Redway - provided an overview of the services they can provide to parish churches, in particular the free HR audits that the diocese is paying for, which cover a review of a parish’s current HR documentation and HR aspects associated with volunteers, employees, anyone paid an honorarium and contractors.

Neil Greatorex was elected as Deanery Synod Chair.

Elizabeth Cranfield was elected as Deanery Secretary.

Alison Collis was elected as Deanery Treasurer.

There was an election of members of the Combined Deanery Standing Committee & Pastoral/Mission Committee.

Nominations for vacancies on the Diocesan Board of Education were invited.

Elections to St Albans Diocesan Synod for 2024-2027.

Six members of clergy and six members of laity were elected to be the Deanery's representatives for St Albans Diocesan Synod, including Rev Jennifer McQuaid.

Diocesan youth initiative in Hitchin. Encouraged by the youth work currently offered in Letchworth, Hitchin and Stotfold, funding was offered for some forums/ training for clergy and laity in youth ministry. Diocesan training for children and youth volunteers began in September. There are 10 monthly sessions.

Diocesan initiative of Spiritual Renewal and Wellbeing. Rev Jess Batten gave an overview of this initiative which aims to guide us in reconnecting with our faith and seeking the renewing life of the Holy Spirit.

Diocesan Synod Report - Neil gave an overview of the highlights from October's Diocesan Synod, the first in the current Triennium. Presentations from the synod are available on the Diocesan website

Rev Eugene Hanshaw was licensed & installed at St George's Norton in July. Rev Katy Little, Curate at St Mary's, Hitchin has been appointed Curate in Charge at Kings Walden, Offley and Lilley and was licensed in December. She will later be licensed as Rector in April. There are no vacancies in the Deanery.

All Saints hosted the Deanery Synod meeting in November and Rev Amanda Ferris described the fantastic journey that All Saints, Willian had undergone in its transformation under the reordering of the church.