

Hertford and Ware Deanery Synod Report 2019

Our vision: to see flourishing, Christ-centred communities inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to discover God, grow in their relationship with Him and respond to His transforming love through serving others.

Deanery Synod met four times during 2019, continuing to offer approaches to Parish ministry.

In February we addressed an ecological theme: Your Church caring for God's earth. We shared information and realised that the natural world is a significant part of enhancing spirituality. There are many threats, but churches and individuals can make a difference.

In May we considered Ministry among and to elderly people. We were given an insight into the Dementia Service at St Andrews and then considered the particular concerns which can arise for elderly people attending church and seeking to join in with worship.

In July we met at High Leigh Conference Centre for a time of fellowship and food, followed by an enlightening look at results from a Mystery Worshipper who had visited several churches and given a report. We also looked at the way in which churches present themselves using examples from a Church of England publication "New Patterns for Worship". The suggestion was - Cherish, Challenge, Change.

In December we considered Lay Ministry with Canon Tim Bull. He said that Lay Ministry needs to come into the limelight and the Diocese is introducing two year-long courses: (1) a course on Foundations for Discipleship and Ministry and (2) a Church Mission Society course to train Lay Pioneers. Details will have come to parishes since then.

All meetings have been convened to assist parishes in considering and launching Fresh Expressions of church, with the current emphasis being on Reaching New People.

The Deanery works to ensure a fair proportioning of the Parish Share, the fund to pay for ministry, and gives support to churches in spiritual and financial ways. We are also the link with the Diocesan Synod which makes wider decisions about ministry in our area and the national General Synod.

The Deanery Synod also provides a website for local information about parishes and churches.

Deanery website... www.hertfordandwaredeanery.org.uk