

HITCHIN DEANERY SYNOD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

There were five Deanery Synod meetings held in 2023. Average attendance has been around 25 with occasional visitors. Thanks are given to the churches that hosted Deanery Synods, both for leading worship and for providing refreshments.

- In February the Synod met at Holy Saviour Church Hitchin and Revd Ian Todd gave a short presentation on Children's Ministry at Holy Saviour Church and then opened the session for wider discussion and experience across the Deanery.
- A presentation was given in April at St. Mary's Church Stotfold by Kate Ford (Diocesan Giving Officer), on how churches can promote a culture of giving by their members.
- Revd Jeni McQuaid gave a presentation on their challenges of mission and ministry Post Covid and how St Pauls church Letchworth after prayer and effort the church is once more flourishing.
- St Mary Magdelene Great Offley Hitchin hosted the September Synod and Revd. Dan Drew, Diocesan Lead gave a presentation on the challenges of growing and keeping younger church members. Thanks also to Rachel Drury for assisting Dan.
- The final Deanery Synod was held in November at St. Mary's Hitchin where the Synod received a Testimonial from Archdeacon Charles on his story of faith. After Archdeacon Charles's story there was an open discussion on blessings and challenges within the Hitchin Deanery as well as the Archdeaconry of St. Albans.

The processing of two Pastoral Schemes took place in 2023.

- In the Benefice of Hitchin and St. Pauls Walden with Preston, the proposal to end the current Hitchin Team Parish structure to in effect create four separate parishes with a simpler team oversight was progressed through the normal Church Commissioner's consultation process was approved by the church commissioners and was implemented as 1st April 2023.

In September 2023 Alison Collis took the reigns as deanery treasurer. In November 2023 Mike Kershaw stepped down as deanery secretary

As of the end of 2023, the role of Deanery Reader Advisor and Deanery Secretary remained unfilled.

The following Clergy and Reader moves took place in 2023.

- Revd. Maxine Howarth became team vicar of St Marks Hitchin
- Revd Trevor Sharp resigned as vicar of St George's Norton
- Gail Adcock was ordained deacon at St Albans Cathedral and will serve the benefice of Pirton, Holwell and Ickleford.
- Jess Batten was ordained deacon at St Alban Cathedral and will serve at Letchworth St Paul with Willian & Old Letchworth.
- Revd Emma-Jane Wilkinson was priested at Petertide and served at St Thomas Wilbury until July 2023, then moved to St Mary's Stotfold in September 2023.

- Revd Katy Little was priested at Petertide and will serve the benefice of Hitchin and St Pauls Walden and Preston.
- Revd Terrance Bell became Chaplain at Lister Hospital, leaving the benefice of Kings Walden, Offley and Lilley.
- Adrian Groves commenced two years of reader training.

Neil Greatorex, Hitchin Deanery Lay chair, April 2024