

ST AUGUSTINE'S THORPE BAY



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2017

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE DEANERY SYNOD

The deanery synod's business, apart from considering routine reports from the General and Diocesan Synods, was somewhat different this year from normal. The first meeting of the year sorted out more exactly who is on the standing committee and the constitution of the synod, the second considered how parishes might engage with youth and children creatively under the guidance of Steve Kersys, a diocesan officer, and the third was addressed by Mark Spraggins on the question of the new system for raising parish share. An important change has taken place in that the deanery synod is no longer the agent for determining parish share – this is now done centrally until ministry and mission units are created. It has had the tonic effect of removing a great deal of acrimony, but at the cost of reducing the actual functions of the synod beyond a mean for the dissemination of information. During the year the secretary and treasurer to the synod were both replaced.

The sickness and then retirement of the archdeacon and the sickness of the area bishop have made strategic planning even harder than usual. A new priest in charge was licensed at St Mary's Prittlewell, a temporary associate priest appointed at North Shoebury, and St Peter's and St Cedd's Westcliff folded into the ministry of the priest in charge of St Stephen's Prittlewell.

A new synod is to be elected this year.

Jonathan Collis
Area Dean