

Deanery Synod Report 2021 for APCM

The Spring meeting was by Zoom with a visiting speaker to tell us about Diocesan finances. These are fraught! Chelmsford Diocese has realised about £6 million of its assets over the past year to meet a shortfall caused partly by the cessation of an annual sum paid to us from Central Funds. This has been tapered down over the past few years. The other part is the reduction in parish share payments to the Diocese as churches struggled to fulfil their shares over months of lockdown and complete church closures.

The Summer 2021 meeting was also by Zoom, by popular request. It's not that Zoom is popular, because it's not, but the safety factor given by not meeting in person was decisive. In any case, it was a short business meeting only. The main business was the announcement by the Rev'd Jonathan Collis that he would not be Area Dean after September.

In November 2021 Deanery Synod met in person at St Mary's Prittlewell. The speaker was the Rev'd Ivor Moody, Vice Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral and Canon Pastor. He is also Chair of 'Essex Mind and Spirit', that supports people by raising awareness of spiritual care in mental health recovery. He gave examples of how to, and how not to, deal compassionately in church with people with mental health problems. Also in this meeting we welcomed the Rev'd Louise Williams as the new Area Dean, and the Rev'd Tom Loh (PIC of St Michael's Leigh) as deputy Area Dean, and set the Spring, Summer and Autumn dates for 2022, together with their matching Standing Committees.

Linda Barnard
Lay Chair, Southend Deanery