

Notes from Christianity Deanery Synod

held at

Holy Trinity Church Centre, Exeter on Thursday 2nd February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

The Lay Chair and Area Dean chaired the meeting

Attendance: At least 10 clergy (plus several apologies) and at least 33 laity (plus several apologies) and two lay observers.

1. **Opening prayer, welcome and short act of worship** by Prebendary Robin Eastoe (Area Dean) and Rev John Byatt (Whipton)
2. **The synod welcomed Right Reverend Dame Sarah Mullalley, Suffragan Bishop of Crediton.** Bishop Sarah was visiting the deanery as part of the programme of Bishops in Mission. She thanked synod members for their support in prayer.
3. **The main business of the synod was a presentation of the Diocesan Strategy video.** Bishop Sarah and Canon Andrew Godsall spoke about the three priorities of the Diocese. The video is at: <https://youtu.be/YRY5S6GU1AY>

We seek to be people who together are:

Growing in prayer

We want to grow in prayer, living a life close to God. This means taking risks as we become more honest with ourselves and more honest with God. Prayer opens up deep places within us to God's grace which is why it is such a life-giving activity. Growing in prayer is essential if we are to witness to God's Kingdom and become the people God has called us to be.

Making new disciples

A disciple is someone who follows Jesus Christ. With him as our companion and guide we can travel through life differently, and we hope others will share the adventure with us. We want to be more faithful in our discipleship and allow God to shape our priorities and values. The Christian gospel is good news and we need to find new ways of telling the story, of explaining the faith and giving a reason for the hope that is in us.

Serving the people of Devon with joy

We want to make a difference in the world and witness to God's love and justice, especially in the communities and schools where we live. Working in partnership with others who are transforming lives, we seek to address the global issues confronting our generation so that everyone may flourish.

Announcements:

The Area Dean congratulated Henry Pryse (St James) on his appointment as a Prebendary of the Cathedral; he will be installed on Tuesday 7th March at 5:30pm. The Lay Chair reminded elected lay members that this was the last synod meeting of the triennium (three years of elected service) so there would be elections for synod members at their church APCMs. He thanked those who had served. He hoped that there would be a member willing to serve as secretary.

There were announcements of events to which all were welcome: :

- Quiz evening at St Mark's on February 18th
- Bach Cantata as part of the Evensong service at St Margaret's Church, Topsham on February 5th
- Lent Reading Group at St Michael's Mount Dinham on five Wednesdays in Lent exploring the "Confessions" of St Augustine
- "On Common Ground-Science and Faith in Conversation" on four Thursdays in Lent in the Cathedral starting on March 9th

The meeting closed with the Grace

Diary Dates 2017

Deanery Synod: starting at 7.30 pm with refreshments from 7pm

- **St Mark's church on Tuesday 6th June 2017**
- **Location to be arranged on Tuesday 17th October 2017**