

Deanery Synod Report

April 2020 – April 2021

The diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich is split up into 18 smaller Deaneries, each under the care of a local Rural Dean. The parish of Christ Church Moreton Hall is part of Thingoe Deanery.

Each parish is required to have a Parochial Church Council (PCC) which meets regularly to oversee church governance. Similarly, there is a Deanery Synod which normally meets three/four times a year, and every parish is asked to send two representatives to form part of this group. The Deanery Synod acts as a sort of midway point between local level church work and the county-wide work of the diocese.

Due to the unique nature of this past year (Covid-19) there have only been two Deanery Synod meetings. The first took place on 6th October 2020 and the second on 24th March 2021 – both via Zoom. Jonathan Corwin accompanied me to the March meeting.

6th October 2020

Most of the meeting was spent giving parishes/ benefices the chance to reflect on their experiences over the last few months, and to share the ways they had carried on ministry during these unusual times. It was good to share both the positives and challenges.

24th March 2021

It was agreed that the “Deanery Plan” (a plan created for going forwards in the four diocese “Growing in God” areas of: Growing in... Depth, Influence, Number, Younger) will be reviewed in the light of Covid-19 and also a reduced number of clergy.

We were given a report on the recent Diocesan Synod, where Bishop Martin spoke about the importance of engaging with social issues and making the church relevant and active in local communities. We were asked to share the following link with our congregations:

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/news/diocesan-video-flourishing-congregations-launch-.php>

At both meetings, diocese finances were discussed at some length. With support from central church and great generosity across the county, the diocese was able to break even in 2020, for which we give grateful thanks to God. We pray that even through the more challenging picture in 2021, the Deanery and Diocese will be able to cover costs in the year ahead.

Heather Lovell, 11th April 2021