

St JOHN THE BAPTIST, TIDEBROOK DEANERY SYNOD 2019-2020 - REPORT FOR APCM

The Deanery Synod has met twice since the APCM held in April 2019.

17 June 2019 at St Richard's Crowborough. Diane Watts, Development worker for "Together in Sussex" (a joint venture between the Diocese and the Church Urban Fund) was welcomed. Her job is to help churches respond to the needs of their local community. We were asked to consider how our own church currently provides for our communities and what might be good to do in the future. She encouraged us to bear in mind what is both possible and sustainable, and emphasised we should be asking what kind of community we would like our children and future generations to grow up in, and how that might be achievable together. She commented "Building relationships is more important than providing services."

This was a thought-provoking talk which prompted discussion and the sharing of ideas.

20 November 2019 at St Mary's Hartfield. The Archdeacon Edward Dowler led a meeting that focused on Diocesan finances. The Diocesan Secretary, Gabrielle Higgins, and Lesley Lynn from the Finance Committee were also present. Diocesan finances are running with a £2m deficit. For the last five years this has been covered by taking £8m from the pastoral fund, money which has been spent on property and education. The Diocese is looking hard at how to reduce the deficit; in particular identifying what we are doing that, while good, is not essential. Mike Singleton presented information on Parish Share proposals. A variety of questions/issues were raised by those attending.

Further meetings - The Deanery Synod meetings scheduled for mid-March 2020 and mid-June 2020 had to be cancelled because of Coronavirus.

Rosie Pearson and Gary Davies
15.10.20