

## **St Peter and St Paul Wadhurst APCM**

### **Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod has met twice since our previous APCM.

In June 2019 we welcomed Diane Watts, Development worker for "Together in Sussex". Her job is to help churches respond to the needs of their local community. As we considered the role of our own churches, she encouraged us to bear in mind what is both possible and sustainable, and emphasised that it is not so much a question of what the church can provide for the community, as asking what kind of community we wish for our children and grandchildren, and how that might be achievable together. "Building relationships is more important than providing services." This was a very interesting and thought-provoking talk.

In November 2019 the Archdeacon Edward Dowler led a meeting on Diocesan finances. The Diocesan Secretary, Gabrielle Higgins, and Lesley Lynn from the Finance Committee were also present. Diocesan finances are running with a £2 m 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 reducing the deficit; in particular identifying what we are doing that, while good, is not essential.

The meetings scheduled for mid-March and mid-June 2020 were cancelled because of Coronavirus.

***Prepared by K B on behalf of the Deanery Synod Representatives***