

Deanery Synod Report for 2025.

Deanery Synod met 3 times in 2025.

February 26th - St Thomas' Church, Bramford Lane.

The theme of the meeting was Estates Evangelism, and discussions were based around the Church of England's six-point strategy for reaching out to estate communities, particularly in deprived areas. Revds Emma Haggart, Mary Sokanovic and Sophie Cowan described their ministries and the particular issues they face in their parishes.

There were no new clergy appointments to report at this meeting, but it was announced that Bishop Graeme Knowles would be commissioned as Acting Bishop on 2nd March 2025, and a new Archdeacon of Ipswich would be announced on 7th March.

June 17th - Holy Trinity Church, Ipswich

The theme was Communications. After a presentation by Tim Holder, Diocesan Director of Engagement, on 'Together we Pray' (a weekday on-line broadcast of Morning Prayer on the Bishop's Facebook page), there was an opportunity for small group discussions on storytelling, social media, press releases and discerning how comms might be used.

News from the Diocese - Parish share payments were at 40% for the year, and 3 benefices were struggling; a celebration of the life of the late Gill Jackson (Deanery Lay Chair) had taken place, and we were encouraged for someone to come forward to replace Gill; the Revd Canon Samantha Brazier-Gibbs to be collated at Ipswich Minster on 24th June; videos of Inspiring Ipswich activities over the last years were being sought for an Inspiring Ipswich Celebration in November; a presentation and thanks were given to Archdeacon Rich for covering the vacancy of the Archdeacon of Ipswich.

October 8th, St Thomas' Church, Bramford Lane

Before the main meeting, lay members met and elected Alison Gibbs (St Thomas' Church) as Lay Chair. The theme of the evening was Growing Together, and looked at planning for growth after the end of Inspiring Ipswich. In future Ipswich Deanery will use the same planning tools as the rest of the Diocese, and help and support will still be available from the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team. Archdeacon Sam was welcomed to her first Deanery Synod. She spoke about her good impressions of Inspiring Ipswich and how she was looking forward to what comes next. The Archdeaconry of Ipswich is set to expand and include more deaneries. Graham Alcock spoke about Growing Hope, a national charity offering support and therapy to children and young people with additional needs, which is hoping to set up a clinic in Ipswich with support from local churches as an example of Faith in Action. A Gold Eco Award was presented to St Andrew's Church Rushmere by Archdeacon Sam. Ipswich in Prayer is celebrating 25 years

Parish Share – it was reported that a few parishes had paid 75% of their contribution while others were struggling; overall the deanery was at 59%.