

Ipswich Deanery Synod Report for 2024

February 28th: St Helen's Church, Ipswich. Rev. Susan Allison led a short act of worship. The theme of the evening was Clergy Wellbeing, a topic which is high on the agenda of the national church. It is going to be rolled out to cover all licensed ministers in time. For information see www.churchofengland.org/resources/clergyresources/national-clergy-hr/supporting-clergy-health-and-wellbeing/covenant. Area Dean Canon Charlotte Cooke and Rev Mary Sokanovic spoke on the subject and small group discussions followed, highlighting how congregations and PCCs can support their clergy, the importance of recognising clergy rest days and the support available to clergy within and outside the church. Charlotte Cooke reported on General Synod. Canon Alan Forsdike (Deanery [Finance] Organiser and Assistant Area Dean) reported that 84% of what was requested as Parish Share was paid by the end of 2023. He reminded people about the Deanery Treasurers' Group which is growing in success and through it several treasurers are linking up to help each other. There is also a Churchwardens' WhatsApp Group. Events and Opportunities: Diocesan Synod 9th March; Leading Your Church into Growth Conference 5th-7th July; Diocesan Finance Conference 25th Sept.; 24-hour prayer room at Holy Trinity Church. Rev Rachel Revely (Asst Area Dean) closed the meeting with a time of reflection.

June 25th: All Hallows Church, Ipswich. Rev. Emma Haggard led a short act of worship. The theme of the evening was to consider the Fifth Mark of Mission '*to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth*' and in particular to look at Net Zero Carbon. Archdeacon Rhiannon was delighted to give 'medals' to those churches who have achieved Bronze (St Mary at the Elms, St Mary Stoke, St Peter's Stoke Park and St Thomas) and Silver (Rushmere St Andrew and St Francis) Eco Church awards. Rev. Emma interviewed James Rolls, the Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Officer. He spoke about some 'quick wins' for churches (eg halogen lamps, door curtains, using renewable energy sources) but also recognised the difficulties of old, draughty, listed buildings, faculties and the expense of change. Events and Opportunities: 17th July consultation for the Vacancy in the See, 6th October Inspiring Ipswich Celebration Evening; nominations invited for clergy and laity on Diocesan Synod. Alan Forsdike (Deanery Organiser) reported a shortfall in the Parish Share to date, and reminded parishes there is help available if they are struggling. Rev Rachel Revely closed the meeting with a short reflection on Matt. 24:42-44.

October 22nd: St Mary's Church, Stoke. Rev Sophie Cowan led a short act of worship. Bishop Martin re-licensed Rev. Tom Mumford and Rev. Rachel Revely as Assistant Area Deans for a further 2 years and licensed Rev. Kiran Lotay as Assistant Area Dean for 2 years. Rev Canon Charlotte Cook (Area Dean) welcomed Bishop Martin and explained the evening was devoted to discernment and listening about the future of the Deanery and Archdeaconry. She also introduced Archdeacon Rich (AD of Suffolk) as the interim AD of Ipswich. The current post of AD is tied into the Directorship of Inspiring Ipswich, and the fruits and benefits of that project need to be sustained. The Archdeaconry is to be expanded to bring it into equity with the other 2 Arch diaconal roles. Small group discussions took place on what are the things we need to make sure continue and what needs to be different? All comments were noted and will feed into the job description; it is hoped interviews will be in December. James Halsall, former DAC and Pastoral Secretary to the Diocese spoke about the Pilot Buildings Project, through which churches will be given professional advice and grants towards things like getting gutters cleared and carrying out small repairs such as slipped roof tiles. The Pastoral Update reported on comings and goings within the Diocese, Alan Forsdike reported on the Parish Share, the Parish Giving Scheme and online giving. Revd Tom Mumford closed the meeting with a time of quiet reflection.