

Diocesan Synod reports for July and October 2019

Bath and Wells Diocesan Synod has met twice since our last deanery synod. We met on July 22nd at Milfield School. This is always an evening meeting and the cricket tea provided before the event is well worth the trip. In his address Bishop Peter reminded us that we are called out by God to be a worshipping community, a sign of hope to the world and a means of saving grace throughout the world.

There was an update on the Lambeth Conference—Bath and Wells are likely to be hosting 19 Bishops and each deanery will be hosting several Bishops and their spouses. More details to follow.

Ven Anne Gell and Julia Hill presented a brief overview of Setting God's People Free (Everyday Faith). Charlie Peer gave a brief outline of Aligning Resources for Mission—right people, right place, right thing at the right time.

Rev. Jonathon Morris briefed the synod on his role as Diocesan Interfaith Adviser.

General synod elections will be held next year (2020). The timetable will be set by G.S. in February. A report was given on the July Synod held in York..

Questions were asked about the sale of Glebe land at Fiddington as there were fears that ancient grassland and mature trees would not be protected if the land was bought by one of the large farming enterprises in the area. Synod was reminded that that the DBF is a charity and must be seen to achieve the best price when land is sold.

Synod on 19th October was held at Canalside in Bridgwater and was an all day session.

After bacon rolls or pastries and worship, Mike Haslan told of the increasing role of chaplains across the diocese. As of that day there were 128 working in schools, hospitals, factories, shopping centres and markets. There are a few schools where the children are also chaplains..

The archdeacons of Bath and Taunton and Charlie Peer updated synod on Aligning Resources for Mission.

We sang happy birthday to Harry Musslewhite and gave him the best present he could wish for by approving the budget for 2020.

After a buffet lunch we had a very interesting session from Canon John Spence. John is visually impaired and spoke without notes for nearly an hour. He had spoken to Exeter diocese in the morning which was the reason for the longer day. He had had a career in banking when he was asked to join the Archbishop's Council. He was an amazing speaker and we all learnt a lot about the Renewal and reform programme and many new initiatives. I personally could have listened for much longer.

An update was given on the Magnificat parishes which is always humbling. The Common Fund is being reviewed.