

## **Deanery synod report May 2021 to April 2022**

The Deanery synod has met 3 times since the last APCM, currently continuing on Zoom but the plan is to start meeting face to face for future meetings. Our Deanery synod representatives are Emma Doran (Deanery Lay Chair), Jan Porter (Deanery secretary) and Pamela Hood.

Rae Caro was licensed at St Mark's, Shiremoor in June and she also has the added role of Mission enabler for Estates. Her role is to help us consider how we reach out to all of the new estates within the deanery, given the large expansion of a number of parishes and the impending Murton Gap development, which will impact on our parish. A number of churches worked together to deliver a Valentines Day event at the Rising Sun, which was very successful, and there is a hope that more events will be carried out at this location.

A deanery development group has been established and has met a number of times to consider working together and sharing of resources across the deanery. Examples of working together can already be seen with Earsdon/Backworth and Shiremoor and conversations are taking place between North Shields and Tynemouth.

Key discussions at synod have included the Parish self-review, a questionnaire that was sent to all parishes in the Diocese, to be completed by PCCs so that important information could be gathered about all churches. This is to identify key themes within parishes. In the future the deanery responses will be made available to the Lay chair and the Area dean for information.

At the October synod we had a presentation by Joanne Christie, the Generous giving advisor for the Diocese who discussed some ideas for increasing income within our parishes.

Pat Bragg has been appointed as deanery environmental champion and is keen to work with interested individuals to improve carbon footprints, share ideas and work towards becoming Eco churches.

Alan Paterson was installed as Priest in charge at St Peters and St Lukes, Wallsend in February 2022.

For the second year running, a deanery Lent course was devised by Tim Mayfield and the readers of the deanery, and this had been used in a number of churches throughout Lent 2022