

Newcastle Central Deanery

In the year to 31 December 2020 Newcastle Central Deanery Synod met on 18 Feb in person then on Zoom on 26 Nov due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The May meeting was cancelled. The Deanery Development Group and Standing Committee met on 6 May , 22 July and 4 Nov. The new triennial Synod was elected during the year.

Deanery Synods potentially have a significant role in the synodical system. They are located between PCCs at parish level and the higher synodical levels of Area and Diocese. One of the most important objectives of the Synodical Government Measure 1969, was to strengthen church organisation at deanery level. The task of the deanery synods, as set out in the Measure is as follows:

- to consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to their deanery, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest;
- to bring together the views of parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- to make known and so far as appropriate put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
- to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that synod by the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion whenever they are required or consider it appropriate to do so;
- to raise matters, as the deanery synod consider appropriate, with the Diocesan Synod.

Transformation

The Synod welcomed Rev'd Rob Sainer-Haigh, Newcastle Diocese Director of Mission and Ministry to the Nov meeting. Rob highlighted the work to date on the transformation agenda and the work to submit a bid for funding in 2021. He highlighted the theological underpinning of the bid which would see a central role of partnership working, in pairs, in mission. The consultation has resulted in understanding a thirst for discerning the gifts of the laity to further the Kingdom of God which should help to bring plans to see the Diocese of Newcastle growing church and bringing hope.

The Deanery gathered via Zoom for the Ascension Day service in 2020. On Ash Wednesday 2021 over 200 people from the Deanery gathered on Zoom for the Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes with Bishop Christine.

Rev'd Jane Natrass

Area Dean

24 March 2021