

Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery Synod Meeting St.Paul's Church, Tiverton, Thursday June 6th 2019

The Rural Dean, Simon Talbot, welcomed Deanery Synod members to a meeting entitled "Thy Kingdom Come". He explained that this meeting would offer a time of prayer devoted to the life of our community and, as such, would form an appropriate opportunity to join the global prayer movement which invited Christians around the world to pray during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost.

Nine prayer stations had been set up around the church, each directing our prayers to a specific aim. The station's purpose was clearly set out in an explanatory text, and members moved around the church to offer their prayers at whichever stations they selected. Themes of the stations included:

--- Washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus, where we were asked to reflect on, and pray for, all those who serve us in our local community.

--- A map of the local area, where we could indicate with a pin the precise location of a person or family for whom we were praying.

--- Under the heading "Light of the World" and aided by a world map, we were invited to light a candle and pray for a particular world area where there is oppression or need.

--- At a simple display of bread and wine, we were asked to consider what Jesus's example meant for us personally, and to pray that it might spread to those who are yet to know him.

Although attendance at this event was only 30, much lower than usual, the silent movement of people throughout the church to offer their prayers and reflections gave a powerful sense of meaning to this very different form of meeting.

The next Synod meeting will be held on 30th September 2019 at Cullompton.