



St Peter's Church, Tiverton

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

April 2020

Deanery Synod Report

Mary Seaton and Richard Stenlake

The Tiverton and Cullompton Deanery Synod's meeting in June 2019 was based on the theme 'Thy Kingdom Come', a global prayer event which invited Christians around the world to pray for the widening of the Church's work. Very imaginative prayer stations had been set up around St Paul's Church, and they helped to focus our prayers for various causes both within our own community and throughout the wider world.

In October, the Synod was introduced to a requirement by the Diocese to put forward a Five Year Deanery Plan by October 2020. This plan would aim to enhance the way the Deanery functions, and to improve communications between the parishes and across the Diocese. A consultation questionnaire was distributed seeking our ideas about how the Deanery might work more effectively. A small St Peter's working group was formed to consider our response, which was subsequently approved by the PCC at the end of January.

In March, the Synod was presented with the resulting draft Deanery Plan, which is quite modest in its scope. Its proposals include the wider sharing of news or initiatives, the holding of two Deanery training events each year, a yearly mission event appealing to a wider group, and a commitment to good communication between mission communities.

In considering our questionnaire response, the St Peter's team soon realised that deep questions were being raised about the way ahead for our own church, and much prayerful deliberation was devoted to the forming of our own Mission Action Plan, to be highlighted at the forthcoming APCM.