

Tiverton & Cullompton Deanery Synod report (Mary Seaton)

The Deanery Synod has met twice during the past year. The St Peter's representatives are Mary Seaton, Kate Henshall and Joanna Hall-Tomkin.

The meeting in September was a welcome return after Covid restrictions. The subject for the meeting was 'Generosity' - generosity of labour, generosity in our interactions and generosity with our finances. Brigit Kiyaga offered advice as to how to collect funds and donations more easily. Hers was an interesting talk, but it was obvious that the assembled company, the majority from small rural churches, are doing everything they can in their own area. However, offers of practical resources for preaching and teaching, Bible study, Fundraising and other subjects are available from Diocesan headquarters and were welcomed.

In March the election of officers took place. The new rural dean, the Revd Andy Humm, was present and was encouraging in his approach, hoping that the Synod would be more involved and 'hands-on' in the activities of the Diocese. Joanna Hall-Tomkin offered to stand as a member of the Diocesan Synod and was appointed by the standing committee. Andy Humm then outlined his hopes for the future and spoke of ways that the Synod could enact the Deanery Action plan which was worked on before lockdown. He hoped that members would forward ideas as to how parishes could help one another.

I think and hope that the Deanery Synod has turned a corner and become more open and broad thinking. All parishes need help at some time or another, and it seems that the Synod has recognised this.