

Amphill and Shefford Deanery Synod Report for 2016

The Amphill and Shefford Deanery Synod held four meetings in 2016.

Revd Barbara Johnson, Chaplain to Bedford Fire & Rescue Service, was the speaker at the first meeting held at Southill Church in April. Some of us know Barbara as the now retired organiser of the Fire Service Christmas service at Woburn. She spoke about her work as a Christian Industrial Chaplain for the Fire Service, how she interacts with members of the Service including those of other faiths.

The meeting heard presentations from candidates for the post of Lay Chairman, following which the Lay members elected John Rennles as Deanery Lay Chairman – the senior Lay member of Synod.

On Sunday 24th April the Deanery held its second 'Walk and Talk' outreach event. People being requested to take part in communal walks, before gathering together in our Crypt for a meal of jacket potatoes and other refreshments, expertly provided for around 100 visitors by our Church Ladies. At 6.00pm there was a service in the Church, including an evangelistic talk and songs.

Second Deanery Synod was at Eversholt on 5th July. The meeting discussed and approved the draft Deanery MAP put together by a group lead by Revd Nigel Washington. PCC's were asked to consider this MAP and report their points back to Nigel. *Woburn PCC discussed this at their July meeting.*

Next meeting formed part of a day's visit to the Deanery by Bishop Alan. Visit included an open evening meeting for Synod members and visitors, at Maulden Church, to celebrate and review the Diocesan 'Living Gods Love' initiative, which had been running for 5 years. Bishop Alan gave a full review of what has happened over the last 5 years and what is planned for next 5 years.

The final synod meeting of the year was held at Arlesey Church on 2nd November, a guest speaker was to speak on 'Mission and Ministry in the Community'. Due to family health problems I was unable to attend this meeting. Although I have requested minutes of this meeting I have still to receive them – so cannot report on what took place!

Our Deanery organised a number of Evensong services at different Churches during 2016; I was unable to attend the Evensong held in Woburn this February, but am told it was well attended. I believe a number of Deanery mid-week Lent events are being held, but have received no details to pass on. However, I am aware Deanery has organised one of its three Confirmation services for 2017 to be held at Woburn on Tuesday 28th November with Bishop Alan presiding.

Apart from election of John Rennles, to fill a casual vacancy as Deanery Lay Chairman, there were no other elections in 2016. All Lay members of Deanery Synod will retire in June; their successors will be appointed by the APCM of each of the 34 parishes in our Deanery. Woburn has two Lay places. Deanery Synod will be required to elect both Clerical and Lay members to Diocesan Synod in 2018.

Bob Franklin, March 2017