

## **1. Deanery News**

The Rev. Jon Hale is to retire from the 1<sup>st</sup> May. Jon has been at Alderley & Birtles since 2016. It was also announced recently that the Rev. Caroline Throup has accepted a post in the Diocese of Europe as Chaplain to the Anglican Chaplaincy in Basel, Caroline has been at Wilmslow for just 3 and a half years. It hasn't been finalised when Caroline will leave but it is expected to be the end of March or beginning of June. It has also been announced that, with Caroline leaving, Jennie Prince will be continuing her Curacy at St. George, Poynton. We wish them all well in their future lives and ministries and thank them for their contribution to the Deanery over their time with us. The Rev. Murray Aldridge-Collins is currently on sick leave, and we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

## **2. Living in Love and Faith**

In the end the Deanery Group didn't meet as numbers were very low and only one person could commit to being there each week. At the time of writing the Chester Diocese has the third highest take-up of LLF courses in the Church of England. All responses should be submitted by the end of April via the Church of England's LLF digital submission service.

## **3. Carbon-Zero Fall Out**

The General Synod has set a target for the Church of England to be Carbon-Zero by 2030. I am hoping to get someone to speak about this at our November meeting of Synod. Of immediate note however are changes to the Faculty process regarding church heating. Firstly the good news, faculty 'permission routes' for changes that will help cut carbon will be implemented. This means it will be easier to instal more carbon efficient heating systems (such as electric pew heaters), soft furnishings and electric-car charging points. The 'bad' news (depending on your point of view) is that a faculty will be required to replace a fossil fuel heating boiler even if it is on a like-for-like basis. Within the faculty the PCC will have to explain how they have had 'due regard' to new net-zero guidance. In other words, you will need to show you have considered low emission alternatives and prove a fossil fuel boiler is the only option.

### **Diocesan Structure**

Changes are taking place to the Diocesan structure. Three new groups have been created that encompass different functions.

- The Core Group: The Bishops, Archdeacons, Dean and Diocesan Secretary, responsible for Diocesan Vision and Strategy
- The Directors Meeting: The Core Group plus the various Board Directors, responsible for resourcing.
- People & Places: not sure on membership, responsible for Pastoral Reorganisation and Pastoral care.

All the groups advise Bishop's Council and feed into their own areas such as Mission or MAMPC.

## 4. Church House

There is a slow drift back to working from the office however many people have expressed a preference for working from home. If this continues it raises a question as to the purpose of Church House, certainly in its current form.

There are some personnel changes –

- The Diocese is advertising for a Director of Development post. This is a one year post sponsored by money from the national church and has already been advertised in the usual ways.
- Emily Allen has moved on from her post as Church Buildings Missioner and a replacement is being sought.
- Peter Bacon, the PA to the Director of Vocations, has left and been replaced by Jane Gerrard.
- Bessia Kanengoni has been appointed the Diocesan Digital Giving Advisor and she will be coming to speak to our next Synod later this year.
- Martin Smith, the Christian Giving Missioner, has announced his retirement to come into effect later in the year.
- Transforming Lives Together are looking to appoint someone to work with a focus on the eastern part of the Diocese. This post will be paid for by TLT which is an independent charity.
- The Diocese now has 3 volunteer Interfaith Advisors; please contact Church House for further information.

## 5. Communications & the Diocesan Year Book

The Diocese is in the process of moving the Diocesan database from an in-house system to the national CMS (NOT Church Missionary Society) database. The moving of the information is simple, agreeing and approving levels of access is more problematic. This will be done over the coming months and we shouldn't notice any change. One upshot however is that it means an end to the printed Diocesan Year Book.

## 6. Unconscious Bias Training for PCCs

This is being rolled out by the Diocese and each PCC will be contacted in turn to arrange a date for this to take place.

## 7. Safeguarding

There are a couple of online Safeguarding Training modules that clergy are expected to have undertaken by now, they were rolled out in February 2020 but got lost because of something else... can't remember what. These are available through the Church of England safeguarding hub. The onus is on individual clergy to ensure they are up-to-date with their own Safeguarding training and all training is logged on your portal.

Please note that the time between clergy DBS checks has been cut from 5 to 3 years. DBS checks are still the responsibility of the Diocese and you will be contacted when it is time for you to renew.

Please note that all PCC members, as Trustees, should undergo basic Safeguarding training, available online, and be DBS checked.

## **8. Environment Update**

The Diocese is formulating a challenging roadmap to be Carbon Zero by the year 2030 and parishes are encouraged to consider ways in which they can cut their own carbon footprint.

The Diocese is also hoping that it will receive a Bronze medal this year in the Eco-diocese scheme.

## **9. Vacancies**

I would, again, like to thank those clergy and parishes that are supporting Rostherne, Tabley and High Legh at the moment. The situation is clearly going to get harder over the coming months with a further four churches requiring cover.

If you are friends with any retired clergy or with PTO or any retired/semiretired Readers please speak to them and encourage them to lend a hand, they can contact the Churchwardens directly or through me.