

## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2021

The Deanery Synod met twice in 2021; Covid again compromised a meeting intended originally to take place in the middle of the year.

The first meeting took place on Zoom on 20th April 2021 and the main topic was a presentation by Rev Jane Winter, Diocesan lead Diocesan advocate for the 'Living in Love and Faith' programme. LLF is an extensive resource produced by the Church of England intended to facilitate conversations about faith, relationships and sexuality in a deeply respectful way.

The presentation was an encouragement to individual churches to engage with the LLF resources and programme, and to give feedback. There was a Q&A afterwards, and concerns were expressed honestly about how difficult this issue is, particularly for evangelical churches with orthodox views. Rev Winter describes herself as a progressive, inclusive liberal priest.

The second meeting took place in person on 17th November 2021, in person, and the main focus was a presentation by Claire Boxall on 'Called Together', the Rochester Diocese strategic framework for growth. 'Called Together' has been through various iterations, and has had a major rework and simplification, ensuring that the five marks of mission are embraced. This has resulted in five sections, each starting with E:

**Evangelism, Everyday Faith, Engagement with Community, Equity and Environment.**

An interesting and engaging presentation; as always, the challenge is to translate a strategy presented at a high level into work and progress on the ground to help grow God's Kingdom where we are.