

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR THE 2021 APCM

2020 was an unusual year for the Beckenham Deanery Synod. Rev Jeremy Blunden was appointed Area Dean at the end of 2019, and the first Deanery Synod meeting, hosted by St. Paul's on 2nd March, was possibly the shortest in recent memory. Lockdown started soon after and the next Deanery Synod meeting took place on 8th December by Zoom.

By December, St. Paul's had had its APCM, and the elected Deanery Synod representatives were Hazel Koungoue and Barbara Judge, with David Gillman and Keith Howick being on the Deanery Synod ex officio because they had previously been elected to the Diocesan Synod.

The December Deanery Synod had hoped to invite the area Growth Enabler, Abi Hiscock, to be present, but she had been furloughed. So the meeting received short reports from each of the Deanery parishes, presented by lay members, focusing on successes and challenges. There were inevitably some common threads of online worship, buddy systems and small group meetings on Zoom. Hazel reported on the experience at St. Paul's, touching on our plans for an online Christingle Service using Christingle boxes/assembly kits and the distinctive reference to share our vision as a church (Encounter → Enquire → Explore → Engage → Enable), the focus being less on 'doing' Church and more emphasis on 'being' Church.

The Deanery Synod Standing Committee now consists of:

Clergy: Fr Jeremy, Rev Gary Best and Rev Simon Couper

Lay: Sarah Poole, Astra Peters, Beccy Short and Gloria Sherman.