

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2022

St. Paul's has three representatives on the Beckenham Deanery Synod; Rev Simon Couper is Deputy Area Dean, and Hazel Koungoue and Keith Howick are lay members.

The Deanery Synod met twice in 2022, in March and July. A third meeting had been planned, but postponed because Bishop Jonathan was keen to do the rounds and so a plenary meeting of five deaneries in Bromley Borough took place in November. Bishop Jonathan opened the floor to questions, most of which were straightforward, and he deflected effectively a question about 'Living in Love and Faith' because C of E deliberations were still in process.

The March 2022 meeting (hosted by St. George's) gathered experiences of churches emerging from lockdown, and discussion of support for Ukraine and refugees, the Russian invasion of Ukraine having begun a month beforehand. There were also presentations on EcoChurch from St. George's and St. Paul's.

The main focus of the July 2022 meeting (hosted by St. Paul's) was a presentation by Jennifer Ross, Communications Manager and Bishop's Media Adviser. Jennifer and her assistant, Katerina Gerhardt, oversee Diocesan communications such as The Digest (weekly), the website, Together (quarterly), and provide Comms help and crisis and media support for parishes. The Communications Team is part of the support we receive from the Diocese, paid for by the Parish Share, and are there to be used by parishes.