

St Andrew's PCC – Annual General Meeting 26 April 2017

Report on Droitwich Deanery Synod meetings 2016-7

Droitwich Deanery Synod has met three times in the past twelve months. Traditionally, the sessions consist of an open forum discussion led by invited speakers, followed by a short business meeting.

The May 2016 meeting considered the way in which churches could support lonely and isolated older people in the parishes. It became clear during discussions that the issues were often very different in rural and more urban communities, particularly where the availability of transport was concerned. Fragmentation of families, the rise in numbers of people living with dementia and safeguarding matters were also noted. There was a general feeling that good neighbours were of key importance. Organising community activities to foster bonds of fellowship was also thought to be very worth considering.

In October, Synod heard from Doug Chaplin about World Church Partnerships and the Diocesan links with Morogoro, Tanzania, Propstei of Magdeberg, in Hoberstadt, Germany and Peru. The nature of the partnerships is very different in each case, and the Anglican communion is, as we are all aware, in a state of flux. However, looking on a much more local level, we were asked to consider as PCCs whether we could form links with other parishes - not in a financial capacity but in giving and sharing, and occasional visits.

The meeting in February 2017 was addressed by Jo Hughes from the Alzheimer's Society about local initiatives to create dementia friendly communities. The launch of flagship programmes in Evesham, Kidderminster and Ombersley was highlighted. St Andrew's Church is a key participant in the Ombersley scheme. This is very much concerned with encouraging businesses, organisations and individuals to learn about the challenges of living with dementia, and modifying environments, business practices and personal approaches to help everyone affected by dementia address these questions.

RT
21 April 2017