

Deanery News

April 2021

Your Bi-monthly Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I write to you as the new (interim) Area Dean of Mercia. I hope and pray you are both well and safe. I want to thank Rev Philip for all that he has done for the Deanery – there were several points during the lockdown when senior staff put an awful lot onto the shoulders of our area deans. Rev Philip has served this Deanery so well during such challenging times.

I'm grateful for Rev Steve stepping up, into a new role, as our chaplain to Chapter and for leading Chapter from herein. I'm grateful to our administrator Debbie and to Ruth who continues as our Assistant Warden of Readers for our Deanery. Together we will work to serve this deanery. I'm also grateful to Maggie for stepping up to lead and chair Deanery Synod – in line with Setting God's People Free our Deanery Synod will be lead and chaired by laity from now on. I am also incredibly grateful to our Leadership Team who have been supporting this deanery for some time now. We all look forward to continuing to build upon all that has come before and working towards a shared ministry and vision across this Deanery.

Many changes are coming that are all resting upon the principles of sharing ministry and sharing mission so that we can once again be fully embedded across our parishes in ways that reflect the reality of the times which we live in.

The Lord, through our Diocesan Vision, asks each of us to be the 'beautiful feet' that will take the Gospel in word and deed across our communities. So, each time churches look at what they will do to reach out and become embedded within their communities I will be reminding them that the Diocesan Vision asks us this: how will this (whatever we are trying to plant) build long-term relationships with new people so that we can develop long-term discipleship?

What's amazing about the 'Church' is that our Lord founded it so that all Christians can be part of ministry and mission. There will be room for everyone to be 'beautiful feet', - from leading a group, to being part of the core team, to making some sandwiches, to putting out chairs, to preparing resources, to welcoming, to making tea, to just turning up and smiling, to being part of the prayer team at home that underpins everything. We simply ask everyone to serve at whatever level they can, and to know that their service will bless the Lord, bless them, & bless others

Blessings of the Lord who goes before us,

Mike Firbank (Rev Dr

Acting Area Dean

If you would like to include your news in our next Deanery Newsletter, please contact Debbie. You can also subscribe (or unsubscribe) to the newsletter by emailing: debbie.patrick@derby.anglican.org

A note from Rev Steve Short

It is a privilege to write as the new (interim) assistant area dean of Mercia. It is my primary aim to support Mike as our area dean and Maggie as our Lay Chair through my pastoral support of our Deanery clergy and the running of our meetings (known as deanery chapter).

These continue to be strange times but also times of blessing and opportunity. It is my hope and prayer that through covid and post lockdown, God will continue to guide us into a future that is both His and ours. Everyone has their part to play in the building of God's Kingdom and that divine mandate is one we seek to continue to model in our deanery of Mercia.

As Mike has also written, the emerging diocesan vision will challenge us to think and act in new ways and, as part of that, my main deanery responsibility will be to minister to and alongside our deanery clergy. As the clergy spend time together in fellowship and worship, I hope that we will continue to support one another as well as sharing best practice that helps us meet the challenges and the opportunities of today and tomorrow.

In this Holy Week and beyond – Hosanna and on we go!



Your Deanery Leadership team

Mike Firbank – Interim Area Dean

Steve Short - Interim Assistant Area Dean with specific responsibility for Clergy wellbeing

Maggie Fenby-Taylor - Lay Chair of Deanery Synod

Ruth Attwood - Assistant Warden of Readers

If you would like to get in touch with anyone then please email: Debbie Patrick on - debbie.patrick@derby.anglican.org

Your Deanery Synod Leadership team

Revd Mike Firbank - *Acting Area Dean (statutory role)* - St George & St Mary, Church Gresley

Revd Steve Short - *Assistant Acting Area Dean (Chaplain to Chapter)* - Melbourne, Ticknall, Smisby and Stanton-by-Bridge

Maggie Fenby-Taylor - Lay Chair - St George, Ticknall

Liz Ballinger - Deanery Treasurer - St Mark, Winhill

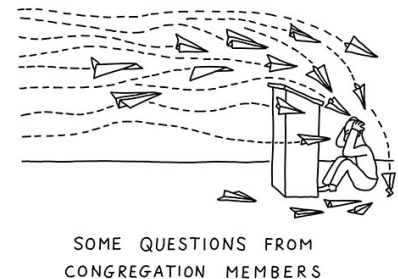
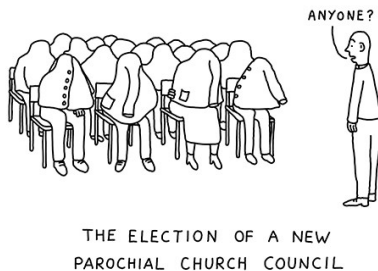
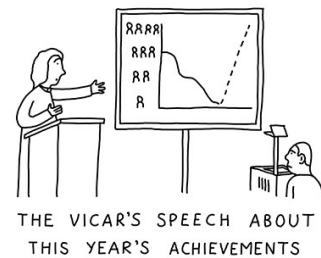
Jon Whiten - Leadership Team Member and Diocesan Synod Rep - St George & St Mary, Gresley

Debbie Patrick - Deanery Administrator and Deanery Synod Secretary

APCM

2021 APCM This year's APCM meetings have been granted an extension to the completion date. All APCM meetings and the election of parochial representatives must be completed by Wednesday 30th June 2021. You may hold your APCM via Zoom, although it is hoped that the extension to the completion date will give parishes a choice as to whether they hold a face to face meeting as restrictions ease. The Archdeacon's Visitation will take place by the end of September.

THE ANNUAL MEETING



New Marriage Registration Regulations

On 4 May 2021, the long-trailed changes to the way marriages are registered come into force.

Clergy have already been sent links to the government's training pages.

For churches in vacancy
Training is available for churchwardens...
Contact Debbie Patrick at
debbie.patrick@derbydanglican.org.



Register of Marriage Services,

Churches will need a new Register of Marriage Services which is now available to pre-order via this link:
[Register of Marriage Services - Hardback \(chpublishing.co.uk\)](https://chpublishing.co.uk)

Obtaining the Marriage Document

GRO will be sending out very clear information about the marriage document and where clergy can get it from. The free on-line admin tool provided by the Church of England www.lifeeventsdiary.org will be updated to enable printing of the marriage document after 4th May.

Charge for Marriage Certificate

From May 4th Marriage Certificates will be issued by the Register Office and not the church, so couples should no longer be charged for a certificate. The Fees table, fees form and fees information for couples will be updated to reflect this change.

There is an [FAQ regarding the changes](#) available on the LRSA's [website](#).

Churches launch nature count to assess biodiversity within “National Park” of churchyards

Hundreds of churches have already signed up to a week-long ‘nature count’ occurring this summer, which will encourage people to visit churchyards and record what they see.

Churches Count on Nature, to run between [5-13 June](#) 2021, is a citizen-science event covering churchyards across the England and Wales.



The project will see communities and visitors making a note of the animals, birds, insects, or fungi in their local churchyard. Their data will then be collated on the [National Biodiversity Network](#).

It is being jointly run by the conservation charities Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England, and the Church in Wales.

The week is open to anyone with a love of nature and churches are being encouraged to link with local schools, local wildlife groups, and those who may not have visited before to discover churchyards.

It is thought church land, often uniquely unploughed and undeveloped, could be a habitat for precious and endangered plants and other wildlife.

During Covid-19 restrictions, churchyards have offered a quiet space for communities particularly in urban areas.

Safeguarding the Diocese



Hello everyone, I am Hannah Hogg, the new Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA). I started in post at the beginning of October and am very excited to have joined the team and to be part of the Diocese. I have spent my career as a qualified solicitor, starting in private practice and then moving into the public sector some years ago. I worked at Derby City Council for 15 years where I was the lead for the legal team dealing with child protection and adults at risk.

I joined the Diocese from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, where I was the Corporate Safeguarding Lead with a focus on multi-agency reviews and strategic leadership in safeguarding.

I'm married with two grown up sons. I have been a governor at our local Church of England primary school for many years and thoroughly enjoy the role, making a small contribution to school life. In my spare time I enjoy reading (crime fiction is a favourite!), meeting up with friends or family (when allowed to do so!) and holidaying in Scotland. I have already met many people over Zoom and really appreciate the welcome that has been extended to me – thank you very much. I look forward to meeting more of you in due course, preferably in person, as lockdown hopefully eases over the coming months.

OUR KEY PRIORITIES

With the publication of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), safeguarding is very much in focus across the Church at the present time. We have a busy year ahead and will be focussing on the following areas:

Past Cases Review 2 - We are very grateful to all parishes for returning the requested information and our preparatory work for this significant project is now well under way. We have two independent reviewers identified and hope that our review will commence in April.

DBS checks - We are in the process of training parish representatives for our streamlined DBS process which allows parishes to complete applications more quickly and efficiently. We have a helpful page on the website that includes the application forms, information on completing the forms and some helpful guides and FAQ: <https://derby.anglican.org/en/about-us/safeguardinginformation-menu/disclosure-and-barring-service-dbs.html> For those of you who have not enrolled to do the DBS streamlining training please enrol by following this link <https://derbysafeguarding.eventbrite.co.uk/>

All parishes need to have this in place by **5th April 2021** - the training is straightforward, and we are here to support throughout.

PSO events - We are pleased to be able to let you know that we have arranged two PSO events: Saturday 24 April 9.30am – 12.30pm and Wednesday 12 May 1.30 – 4.30pm. At the moment it seems likely that both events will be over Zoom and booking will be made available via Eventbrite. We will be looking at updates around our key activity, IICSA and PCR2. In addition, we will be having a short presentation from Daphne Franks around the safeguarding issues arising from predatory marriage.

A little reminder ... Parish Dashboard: Can we just remind you about the Parish Dashboard which is there to assist you in ensuring your parish is fully compliant with safeguarding requirements. We will be focussing on the Dashboard later this year but if you have any queries please contact Sue Griffin, Safeguarding Co-Ordinator (sue.griffin@derby.anglican.org) for further information.

AND FINALLY.....

If you have a few minutes to spare, perhaps you would like to follow the link below for a short film produced by the Derbyshire SAB on signs to look out for that an adult may be at risk:

[Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board - Identifying and reporting abuse and neglect - YouTube](#)

A version with British Sign Language can be found at:

[Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board - identifying and reporting abuse and neglect \(BSL version\) - YouTube](#)

The Safeguarding Team continue to work remotely from home but remain open for referrals – contact 01332 388678 for advice or to report a concern.

Deadline for August Deanery Newsletter

Please send in your articles to debbie.patrick@derby.anglican.org

Deadline - 16th July 2021

Remember that anything you send looks much better with photo's so please send anything you have.

Dates for your Diary

Deanery Synod dates for 2021

28th April - Zoom

Mercia Deanery Benefices

● Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney ● Church Gresley ● Melbourne, Ticknal, Smisby and Stanton-by-Bridge ● Newhall ● Seale: Lullington, Linton, Castle Gresley and Overseal ● Stapenhill (including Caldwell) ● Swadlincote and Hartshorne ● Trent and Derwent: Aston-on-Trent, Elvaston, Weston-onTrent and Shardlow, Barrow-upon-Trent with Twyford and swarkestone ● Trent United: Walton-on-Trent and Croxall, Stapenhill:Immanuel, Rosliston, Coton-in-the-Elms, Catton ● Winshill and Bretby