

Annual Review of 2021, published for Annual
Parochial Church Meetings April/May 2022

**The Greenway Benefice - Holy Trinity, Badgeworth,
St Paul's, Shurdington, and St Mary's, Witcombe
with Bentham**



Find us on [achurchnearyou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) and on [Facebook @greenwaychurches](https://www.facebook.com/greenwaychurches)

The Greenway Benefice Team
*(supporting Holy Trinity Badgeworth, St Paul's Shurdington,
and St Mary's Witcombe with Bentham):*

VICAR

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Usual day off: Friday

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Local Ministry Team: *The Greenway Team*

Revd Susan Cooke	Revd Rebecca Spear	Mr Robert Poole
Mrs Sue Padfield	Mr Paul Stanfield	Mrs Christine Jeffs
Mrs Clare Stewart	Mrs Rachel Cottell	Mrs Catherine Milsom

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Benefice Administrator

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Contents

Please note that this document only contains the Annual Review of organisations and events in the Greenway Benefice .

For a full picture of church life and worship, including finance, it should be read in conjunction with the Churchwardens', Trustees' and Treasurer's reports for each parish. These will be available as separate documents shortly before their respective APCMs , due to be held in April and May 2022.

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Our Benefice Vision:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation"

[Mark 16¹⁵]

Linking with LIFE, the Diocese's Vision, we seek to build the Kingdom in a united benefice where:

- we are confident disciples in a challenging world,
- the traditional has been maintained but we have been open to the need for change,
- we have nurtured the elderly, particularly via the care homes, and brought the message to young people and their families through our partnership with the school,
- the gifts of all are valued, enabled and developed,
- good leadership has been developed in both ordained and lay,
- we have found the resources – human and financial - to keep our three churches open, outward-looking and central to their villages.

VICAR'S INTRODUCTION TO THE GREENWAY BENEFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2021

I suppose we expected that 2021 might be less impacted by Covid-19, and that 2020's report would be unique. Sadly, we were wrong, and 2021 was as much affected, if not more so, by the pandemic. You will see again, in the reports from our team, that things were different, but we still managed to worship together, to minister to each other and to reach out to the communities in Christian love.

All three churches played their part in God's mission through the various lockdowns, changes to in person worship and the struggles of many through illness, food poverty and loneliness, co-ordinating and enabling local offers of help within each parish.

We continued to worship with friends from Shurdington Church of England Primary School, Shurdington Chapel and other local Christians in online worship, and in-person, thanks to our Christian friends: Headteacher, Jon Millin, and chapel pastor, Steve Jones.

All three churches are proud to have achieved the A Rocha Bronze Eco Church award in 2020, and we continued throughout 2021 to work towards Silver. We held our third annual Eco Week in 2021.



2021 included a mixture of worship in person, on zoom and on Facebook and we started to livestream services. We held quite a few outdoor services during the warmer weather, and even in the colder weather for Christmas carols! We also offered worship videos to school and shared them on YouTube.



At Halloween we opened the church to families and teens, where we had a light display, with candles on the altar, and opportunities for prayer and conversation. It was a delightfully busy evening!

It continues to be a pleasure to work with the preschool, Meadows Day Nursery, the café, and the Scouts. Book Club continued throughout 2021, online and finally in person again.



We are blessed with Christian colleagues, lay and ordained, who exercise their ministry generously in many ways. My thanks to everyone who does their bit, especially our church wardens, Roger, Sue, Lynne, Clare and Andrew, deputy warden Paul and the local ministry team. As leaders and as congregations, we are still learning new skills and stepping outside of our comfort zones.

Chris Langham, our benefice administrator, provides invaluable support to me and to all three churches, as well as to our wedding and baptism families. Robert Poole has been busy in his role as Funeral Minister. I and many families are grateful to Rob for his ministry in another particularly difficult year.

There are many others who lead worship on Sundays and during the week, including our bible study group, home groups, morning prayer and prayer during the day, many of which continued or started online.

My thanks to everyone, and to Revd Ian Gobey who has continued to support the benefice and to Rachel Cottell whose work in the care homes continues to flourish. Worship at Badgeworth Court is special, continuing during lockdown. Sue Padfield took on the role of leading regular worship in Chargrove Lawn during 2021.

In 2021, our five adult confirmation candidates were finally able to be confirmed. Alleluia!

Our curate, Revd Rebecca Spear, was ordained priest in 2021, enabling her to preside at Holy Communion and take weddings and baptisms. Her ministry is noticeable in the benefice. We are still looking forward to a slightly more normal time for curacy, but she has learned much, and given us a great deal, in her leading and in her contributions to the daily life of the benefice.

Catherine Milsom is now an ordinand and started training for ordination in September 2021. She and her family continue to bless us, and we were delighted to baptise Stephen and admit George to Holy Communion in December.

Greenway Gifts continues to be a great collaboration between the churches and the community, Feed Cheltenham and more, managed by Catherine and now open every Monday morning. We have been able to give grocery bags to struggling families and individuals showing the generous love of God.

Again, finances were a concern for all three churches, but for 2021, the outcome was not as bleak as we had feared. By your generosity and by faith, we fared well. Thanks again to those who work so hard to raise funds for the churches and who put in claims for the Covid recovery fund. Our treasurers work tirelessly to manage our finances, and we were sad to lose our faithful Malcolm Brown. Grateful thanks to Hazel Cotton and those who assisted her in taking over the finances for Holy Trinity, after Malcolm's death.

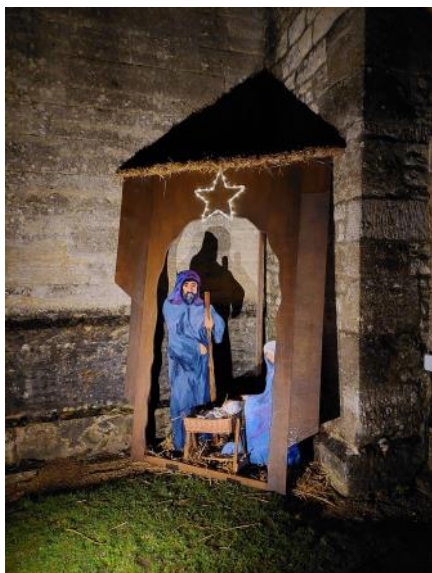


We concluded our two-year programme "Flourish" – helping us to develop and nurture confident disciples. As a result of the learning community, we introduced four new small groups, a sermon series and we began to focus on our everyday faith, from Sunday to Saturday. The ideas we hatched during the learning programme have now been handed over to the local ministry team and merged into the benefice strategy document.

2021 has been unrelenting and challenging. We pause to remember those who died, either directly, indirectly or unrelated to the pandemic. In another year when more

deaths occurred than usual, and in unusual circumstances, with funerals affected, we miss and mourn our loved ones deeply and take comfort in the knowledge that they are safe in God's loving care.

The pandemic has caused other trauma in addition to the loss of loved ones. We have all lived through a time of uncertainty and danger, causing us to behave differently, to feel anxious and scared. I know that I have not got everything right as we navigate these new situations, but I have tried my best, in the sight of God, as I know that you have. Trauma can induce impatience, lack of confidence and even lack of or loss of faith. I pray that in 2021 we have learned to be kinder and gentler with one another and to rely more fully on God.



Please enjoy the reports from each church, and the other benefice reports contained in this document. Thanks to everyone who holds office or a role in the churches. Thanks to those who have no official role, but who serve faithfully. Apologies to anyone not mentioned here, but please know that you are all much appreciated in your service to our loving God.

During 2021 we have worked hard and remained faithful. I continue to give thanks for all that has gone before, and pray for the year ahead, for the healing of our churches and communities, for resuming worship however that may look, for our flourishing as individual disciples, as churches, as a benefice and as the body of Christ in this place.

Blessings, Susan

The Reverend Susan Cooke

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" Mark 16:15



CURATE'S REPORT

As we go to press, Rebecca is on sick leave and hasn't been able to contribute to this review of 2021.

We look back here at some of the milestones of her first six months as an ordained priest, and remember the many contributions she has already made to our life and worship in the benefice;



June 2021—ordained priest at Gloucester cathedral, and then presiding at Holy Communion for the first time at St. Paul's



her friendly presence on Facebook live midday prayer,
leading worship for all occasions,



planning worship and outreach with the Local ministry team,

giving practical help to Greenway Gifts,

supporting our ministry to Shurdington Primary School.....

We look forward to her return..



READER'S REPORT

Given the Covid situation continuing into 2022 it might be thought that my role as Reader in the benefice might have turned out to be less busy than prior to the dreadful pandemic. In reality, as last year, it has been a challenging year in many ways.

This has been the third full year of my being Funeral Minister for the Benefice. It is always a little sad to reflect on those we have lost since last January: Marian Green, Margaret Holyoake, Dick Garstang, Frances Gwyther, Muriel Cooper, Elsie Winterbourne, Suzette Johnson, Bob Dyke, Marilyn Wright, Iwan (John) Fedenko, Angela Rosemary Johnson, Robert Malcolm Brown and June Mary Field to name but a few.

I regularly say that taking funeral services is a great privilege and to be able to do God's work in supporting relatives and friends at one of the darker times in their lives has its own, special reward. When officiating for those I have known well, and dare to call friends, it is especially so. To be thanked and given lovely feedback regarding services in church, in churchyards and crematoriums is a wonderful bonus.

Covid rules have also meant that we did not carry out many services in church for the early part of the year. This situation has eased considerably and now, for the moment at least, we are able to, albeit with face masks when singing and keeping where possible to household groups.



Gloucester Funerals was launched last year. This is a "One Stop Shop" for Funeral Directors to make contact and arrange funerals in churches across the Diocese where retired or sick clergy and local Readers are not available. As a result, I have been asked to minister at funerals for a few parishes and benefices this year.

In total I have officiated at fifty, yes 50, funeral events this last year. These being funerals at crematoriums or in churches, or Interments of Ashes in churchyards or cemeteries. For one family at least I seem to have become the family minister for funerals having done quite a few over the last three to four years. This is a lovely thought, though not one I actively sought in any way, indeed it was only recently that the familial connections between the funerals was made.

This year has seen the development of a practical process for all ministers to inform Treasurers and the Administrator of when funeral events are to take place, the fees expected from invoices issued by the Administrator, and where and to whom they are to be paid. This was finally put fully in place during December with a catch-up process to clear any backlog. My grateful thanks to Mark and Chris in helping with this.

On-line worship continues, though Midday Prayers reduced from five to three days a week as an indirect result of being able to do Sunday Worship in church again.

I know there is great frustration with continued Covid restrictive practices being in place, especially that of mask wearing. All of us in the ministry team share your frustrations, believe me! If you doubt it, try walking up or down steep stairs wearing a mask and steamed-up spectacles such as we do when going into and out of the pulpit! On second thoughts please don't!!!

It seems that issues regarding Covid are likely to continue well into the New Year thanks to the Omicron variant. As ever, the health and safety of our congregational members will be at the forefront of any decisions we make and will always, always, trump any personal comfort preferences.

Robert Poole

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Well, 2021 didn't see things totally 'back to normal' as Covid-19 continued to restrict our activities, but with a lighter touch than in 2020. In between the various lockdowns and restrictions we managed to hold ten Baptisms, two Dedication services and six Weddings in the benefice in 2021.



Wedding admin underwent some historic changes in March 2021, with the General Register Office withdrawing all of the thousands of locally held marriage registers, and replacing them with a new, centralised computerised register. This change has allowed couples to include not just their father's details, but also their mother's and any step parents on the marriage certificate.

There is still a document to be signed and duly witnessed in church, so the ceremony is virtually unchanged, but it does mean that the couples have to wait a week or two before they can obtain their certificate from the GRO. Our churches, and many others, have decided to give the couples a 'Congratulations' card to mark the occasion instead.

As things started to reopen, I settled into what will probably be a permanent pattern of working most of my hours in the office on Monday mornings, and catching up with emails and any other items that I don't need to be physically in the office for later in the week. It has been good to have some company in the building on a Monday morning, thanks to the presence of Greenway Gifts and some of the LMT. It also improves my turn-around time for producing occasional posters, service sheets etc!

I now produce invoices for all our church's weddings and funerals, and many thanks are due to Rob Poole and all our treasurers for their help in using on-line file sharing to keep track of when payments are expected.

The weekly sheets of readings and prayers are still mainly an on-line publication, as a contribution to our eco-church credentials in not printing unnecessarily, and the news and events are now a separate document, which can be printed and displayed on notice boards on a monthly basis. I'm very grateful for Revd Susan and Sue Padfield's help in proofreading all of these.

Chris Langham

LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM REPORT OF 2021

The Benefice Local Ministry Team comprised the Revd Susan Cooke, (Vicar), the Revd Rebecca Spear (Curate), Rob Poole (Reader and Funeral Minister), Catherine Milsom (Ordinand), Paul Stanfield, Clare Stewart, Rachel Cottell (Safe-guarding Officer and Care Homes Liaison), Christine Jeffs and Sue Padfield.

During 2021, most of the team continued to take part in the Flourish course, run for several Benefices in the Diocese (on-line when necessary) to encourage and enable discipleship, which has influenced our planning of worship, including intercessions and the introduction of a “this Time Tomorrow” interview in many services, and promoted the formation of an action plan, which has now been absorbed into the Benefice Strategy.

The team met regularly on zoom to discuss and plan the worship for the Benefice as the restrictions of the pandemic changed and allowed. Initially, worship was entirely on-line and many of us were involved in leading and taking part. During February, March and April a Frontlines sermon series was undertaken, inspired by the Flourish programme and we were very encouraged by the courage and confidence of the many willing to do a “This Time Tomorrow” interview. As far as possible we kept in touch with those parishioners unable to access online services. Daily midday services continued and services were variously recorded for Shurdington School.



Alongside this the Greenway Gifts initiative continued, run so capably by Catherine, and through the generosity of many, and has enabled many families to benefit weekly throughout the year from a bag of groceries and household products.

As pandemic restrictions eased, service planning was enlarged to include gathered services of varying type and frequency, including outdoor ones and initially in the mornings; later, gathered services moved back to the mornings and on-line to the afternoons. By the autumn a (thankfully) fixed pattern had emerged, with one of the services in the benefice being live-streamed each Sunday and a Benefice

Local Ministry Team Report (cont'd)

Eucharist being held each 4th Sunday in the three churches in rotation. We were able to arrange a Posada journey and to largely provide the traditional Christmas services.

The team began to meet and worship together in person when it could and continued to work on other items in the Strategy/Action Plan as Covid enabled; these include developing the partnership with the primary school, serving the Care Homes in the Benefice, making additional use of our church buildings for concerts, etc, working on Eco-church accreditation, commemorating with our baptismal families and at All Souls'tide, arranging Away-days. It is hoped that the Community Choir will be able to start its activities soon.

The team is very grateful to Chris Langham, Benefice Administrator for her efficient production of service sheets and Benefice cards at Christmas and Easter and efficient weekly update of the Achurchnearyou website with service details and notices.

Part of the team's brief is to act as enabler to foster the gifts of all; the ideas and contributions of all our congregations and communities are valued.

Sue Padfield

THE GREENWAY BENEFICE PASTORAL CARE GROUP 2021

During 2021 it was difficult for all members of the Pastoral Care Team to meet in person.

Throughout 2021 the team have continued to remain in contact with the frail and housebound and have also supported the bereaved within the Benefice either by phone or when possible in person.

An All Souls Benefice Service was held at St. Mary's Church for all who were Bereaved in the past year, many of whom were unable to attend a church service at the time.

Both Nursing Homes in the Benefice were visited when opened to visitors and free from Covid.

Contact details for members of the team can be found in the 3 in 1 and on the website.

Clare Stewart.

CHILDREN'S WORK IN THE GREENWAY BENEFICE

OPEN THE BOOK

Both the Open the Book team and the pupils at Shurdington Primary School have missed being able to share their dramatized bible readings in 2021, as restrictions continued to be relaxed and then re-implemented throughout the year. They plan to restart using Zoom in 2022, and to return to visiting the school when it is safe to do so.

ALL STARS

All Stars – a Christian after-school club for Reception and KS1 children in Shurdington Primary School – is normally run there on behalf of the Benefice churches, but this has not been possible since the beginning of the pandemic. It is hoped to be able to return to it when restrictions allow. It is usually popular and offers those younger children (and their parents), who wish it, more on the Christian faith. Sessions usually involve a story, often acted out, songs, prayer and a craft activity. Many of the children are very knowledgeable and insightful and will volunteer their own prayers willingly and thoughtfully. During lockdown occasional videos were produced on behalf of All Stars, which contributed to the rota of those, provided by the Vicar and others, which class teachers used in place of Collective Worship. At present All Stars is in need of addition(s) to its helpers and would be grateful for any volunteers who would enjoy sharing their faith with the children.

Sue Padfield

FAMILY AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH 2021

We welcomed the Shurdington Scout Group into the church for Remembrance Day



Families came together in Witcombe to make Christingles.

Our Posada family visited Shurdington CofE Primary School, as well as homes and churches in the benefice



GREENWAY GIFTS

2021 has been an important year for Greenway Gifts.

Having seen the success of our 2020 projects, we have continued in our seasonal gifting of activity packs for children and pamper/gift bags for adults for both Easter and Christmas across the Benefice.

We now hold a regular weekly Greenway Gifts Groceries collection morning every Monday from St Paul's Church Hall, organised through a volunteer rota with representation across all three churches.



We average around 25 clients per week, but this number is growing as we are receiving more referrals and have done more targeted advertising, including on social media. We have regular columns in the 3in1 magazine to advertise the project and to ask for financial donations or stock items.



Our previous support from Morrisons has been dropped as they now have their own foodbank in Hatherley. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity and support of both the congregations and the community who have ensured our projects continue to be well funded and are able to supply food, hygiene, and household items for free to anyone who needs it.

Our plans for 2022 include to continue with our weekly grocery collection, an Easter Egg trail for our Spring family giving activity and a monthly Greenway Gifts Café held within a grocery collection morning.

SAFEGUARDING

In the Greenway benefice, we aim to create an environment which is welcoming and respectful and which enables safeguarding concerns to be raised and responded to openly, promptly and consistently. In order to assist with the creation of a safeguarding culture in the Greenway benefice, we comply with all the requirements of the diocesan safeguarding team.

We have a designated and experienced Safeguarding Officer, Rachel Cottell, who works with Rev Susan and the three PCCs.

Many members of the PCCs and a number of sidespersons have completed the Diocesan Basic Awareness safeguarding training course, and many have also worked through the Foundation course, both either independently online or in a group setting led by Rachel.

We are working towards every member of the PCCs having a DBS certificate.

Each church displays the 'Promoting a Safer Church' safeguarding policy statement, which includes names and contact details of those who can help children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is a standing item on all PCC agendas and Rachel regularly reports to the PCCs on safeguarding.

Rachel Cottell

MOTHERS' UNION 2021



I carried on sending emails to each member each week until we opened up in the Summer.

In July, Rev Ian Gobey led us in a service of 'Coming back together'

We met at Josie Brown's for Mary Sumner day on August 9th.

September was a service on the theme for the year...***Transformation, now!*** where four new members were enrolled.

We had meetings face to face in October and November and finished the year with a Tea Party.

We have a programme for 2022.... It is the beginning of a new triennial and the Diocese has a new president....Doreen McClellan from Hucclecote. We have a full programme for the year and will be having a Lady Day service in the Lady Chapel, led by the Bishop on March 25th, when the new trustees will be commissioned. We hope it will be the third time lucky for the Annual Gathering in Belfast in September.

Kate Thompson

MINISTRY TO CARE HOMES 2021

Since August 2017, we have been holding a fortnightly church service in our two local care homes – Badgeworth Court and Chargrove Lawn. The services follow a printed service devised by us in the benefice, with support from the diocesan dementia friendly churches team. The Praise service usually includes hymns, a familiar chorus, prayers, and a reading and reflection. Many services are multi-sensory to take into account the needs of residents, and all services are dementia friendly.

This year, we have continued with services for residents at Badgeworth Court and have recently reintroduced services at Chargrove Lawn. The regularity of Praise services is compromised with occasional lockdowns, due to a rise in Covid rates in the homes.

At Badgeworth Court, there has been a growing awareness of the need for spiritual support and we have provided end of life prayers for residents, met with families and held memorial services to remember residents who have died. Staff are also asking for moments of prayer.

During this year, I have developed close links with the Anna Chaplaincy CaBiC team (Bible Reading Fellowship), delivering Easter chicks prayer packs to Badgeworth Court, and handmade pocket filled Advent calendars to both Badgeworth Court and Chargrove Lawn.



In Autumn 2020, I co-led a deanery training day on Worship with Older People, held at St John's Churchdown and working in partnership with the Rev Brian Dunlop and Gill Ford, Anna Chaplaincy Coordinator.

Rachel Cottell

Lay Worship Leader (Greenway benefice)

Community Dementia Link and Trainer (Dementia Training & Education Strategy for Gloucestershire)

BENEFICE BIBLE STUDY

The Benefice Bible Study group has continued to meet on Monday afternoons throughout much of the year, on Zoom while it was not possible to meet in person. We were glad to be able to resume in-person gatherings in August (outdoors) and September, when hospitality continued to be generously given by Averil Cole.

We continued to follow the Bible Society course sections entitled Just Lyfe (sic) and Whole Lyfe. (These can be found on line). We then much enjoyed reading and discussion of the Acts of the Apostles.

Our meetings always include time for prayer, which includes local as well as global needs. During Lent the group usually becomes a Lent study group.

We are very grateful to our hostesses and to all who contribute. The group is always delighted to welcome new members, so, if you are interested, why not give it a try!

Sue Padfield

THREE IN ONE for 2021

The print run was initially 370 copies. This was reduced twice in the autumn, settling at 335 copies of the bumper December edition.

We recommend that everyone reads the magazine and encourages others throughout the benefice to do likewise.

The magazine continues to welcome contributions from residents. Articles about people's lives are well received, giving all readers fresh insights into the varied and rich life experiences of those living nearby.

Those actively involved include:

Editor: John Cummins

Distribution Manager: Geoff Wilkinson

Business Manager: Ian Davies

The ministry team are active in supplying content.

Behind the scenes, several people proofread the draft.

We remain committed to Three-In-One being a printed magazine distributed to residents across the benefice. The magazine will continue to be made available online, which is additional to the print edition.

Ian Davies Business Manager, 3 in 1

DEANERY of SEVERN VALE SYNOD REPORT for 2021

The Deanery comprises 12 Benefices made up between them of 45 parishes with 46 churches. Geographically the Deanery forms a large area from Mitcheldean in the Forest of Dean in the west to Preston in the north-west of the county, contains parishes on both sides of the Severn north of Gloucester, then incorporates a swathe of villages round the eastern side of Gloucester, with St Mary's at Great Witcombe its most south-easterly church.

The Reverend Simon Mason served as Area Dean for most of 2021, with the Reverend Canon Jacqui Hyde "officially" commissioned into office on 11 January 2022.

Parish representatives:

Holy Trinity, Badgeworth:	Rachel Cottell
St Paul's Shurdington:	Chris Langham
St Mary's, Witcombe w Bentham:	Sue Padfield.

The Standing and Pastoral Committee currently comprises:

Area Dean:	The Revd Canon Jacqui Hyde
Assistant Area Dean:	The Revd John Longuet-Higgins
Lay Chairman:	Mrs Sue Padfield
Secretary:	Mr Steve Riddick
Parish Share Officer:	Mr Derek Wright
Treasurer:	Mr Derek Wright (covering a vacancy)
Lay Members:	Canon Roger Parker and Mrs Monica Richardson

Deanery Synod usually meets three times a year - meetings include reports from benefices, from the Parish Share Officer and from Diocesan and General Synods, updates on Diocesan initiatives, strategy and finance, and speakers on a wide variety of issues relevant to the Church of England. There are opportunities to share good practice and advice and to learn from each other's strengths. Deanery Synod can propose motions for debate at Diocesan Synod, whose members are elected by Deanery Synod, and its members should convey information and opinion between Diocese and parish and vice versa. Deanery Synod also elects the Diocesan representatives for General Synod.

Between Synods the Standing and Pastoral committee have met to plan and to hear reports on the benefices' progress and well-being and on finance. This year they have embarked on leading the process of Deanery Mapping prior to the formation of a Deanery Strategic Plan alongside all the deaneries in the Diocese.

However, owing to Covid-19, only two Synods were held in 2021, with the third delayed until 11 January 2022. This report therefore covers a thirteen-month period, as follows:

Thursday, 25th February 2021 (via Zoom) The main business of Synod was the Strategic Planning Process underway across all the Deaneries in the Diocese; mapping exercises and audits have been completed to ensure a better knowledge of our Deanery churches and communities, and the 4Rs (Retain/Resist/Return Radical) survey undertaken to ascertain views of the effects of the pandemic on our church life. Ensuing discussion included the extent of new housing in the Deanery (especially Innsworth, Twigworth and Longford), how pioneer and sports ministry might feature, the extent of our clergy vacancies, the difficulties of paying Parish Share.

March/April: Cluster Meetings:

To further the Strategic Planning Process when in-person meetings were not possible, it was decided to hold (via Zoom) meetings of representatives from groups of Benefices (in groups where links were already established); these had a common agenda and considerably similar ideas resulted:

Missed during Lockdowns - gathering in church for: worship, singing, fellowship, communion, welcoming new; pastoral visits; those not on-line; presence in schools inc. One Life/visits from schools; community gathering; fund-raising/collection plate; weddings, baptisms; planned Partners in Mission events. Not missed: early starts: rushed travelling for clergy; driving to meetings.

Retain from new - on-line - worship, meetings inc homegroups/prayer groups, children's/school work, OTB, live-streamed funerals, live-streaming from church, availability to those unable to attend church. greater Benefice unity; outdoor worship; support groups – food and other; creativity that has been needed.

God at work? / possible new areas of outreach? - all benefices engaged, positive and creative; all have new housing developments. Schools; local cafe, Care homes, support group, practical courses (marriage, debt, parenting etc), community choir, new housing and schools, One Life, outside services, greater visibility in community, on-line creativity.

Use of clergy time use individual clergy strengths, delegate, use lay gifts, administrative/training/new initiative overload; revitalise LMTs, revise worship, patterns.

Assistance? Administration/Project Management/Statistics – high level, able to take responsibility; sharing of expertise, inc. on-line provision, partnership working, review of benefice structures.

Partnership working – Deanery initiatives with schools, eg One Life/Sports ministry, focus limited specialist resources, eg fund raising streams, children's work, shared curate, marriage prep., Funeral project, Deanery Training in cluster groups, Clusters of 4 clergy, DAC surgeries.

Wednesday, 23rd June 2021 (outdoors at St John's Churchdown) Again the meeting principally focussed on the Strategic Planning Process. Key topics from the Cluster meetings were discussed in groups, including how we can all work together more closely, establishing further links between Benefices, reaching out in new housing developments, better use of technology (e.g. website, social media) and increased focus on schools and young people (including family ministers, school chaplains, and sport-related initiatives), all of which will feed into the planning. This was followed by a presentation on "Modulo" - a scheme for Discipleship. Elections to Diocesan Synod were confirmed and updates were given on the LIFE Vision, Parish Share and a new "Spiritual Care for Older People" training opportunity (held in the Autumn).

Tuesday 11th January 2022 (St Mary's Newent)

Synod began with a service of commissioning of the Revd Canon Jacqui Hyde as Area Dean – with associated thanks to Simon Mason for all his hard work over the years and the recommissioning of Sue Padfield as Lay Chair. An update on the Strategic Plan noted that an external facilitator has been appointed and a Core Group formed. An update on Deanery matters including progress on new clergy appointments, possible reshaping, the appointment of a full-time Sports and Faith Leader for the Innsworth/Longford/Twigworth housing developments and Parish Share Out-turn. A presentation was given by Dan Button on the Gloucester (previously Gateway) Theology School and a report from Diocesan Synod included "Living in Love and Faith" and the updated "LIFE Together" Vision.

Synod minutes and other information and reports can be found on the Deanery website, www.severnvaldeanery.co.uk, thanks for the upkeep of which are due to Hugh James from Mitcheldean. Sue Padfield

Sue Padfield