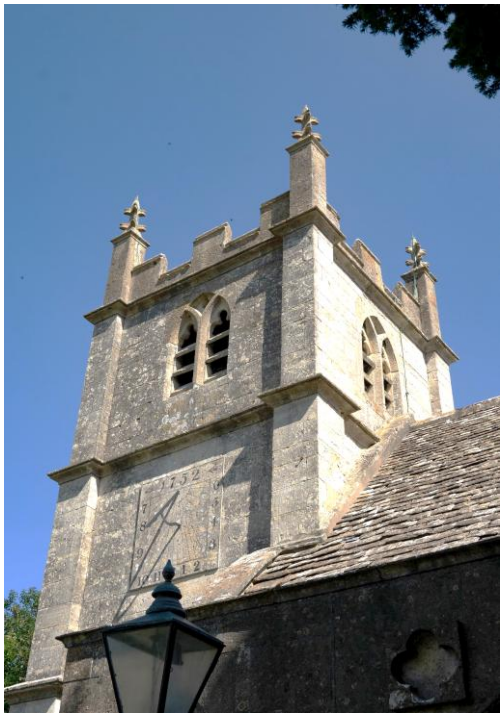
Annual Review of 2025, published for Annual Parochial Church Meetings May 2026

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







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(supporting Holy Trinity Badgeworth, St Paul's Shurdington, and St Mary's Witcombe with Bentham):

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Mr Robert Poole	Mr Vaughan Kerry	Mrs Sue Padfield
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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 Treasurers' reports for each parish.

	Page
Benefice Contacts	2
Clergy Report	4
Greenway Gifts	6
Funeral minister's Report	6
Reader's Report	7
Community Choir	8
Local Ministry Team Report	9
Safeguarding	9
Benefice Small Groups	10
Ministry to Care Homes	11
Children's work - Open The Book	12
Children's work - All Stars	13
Mothers' Union Report	14
Deanery of Severn Vale Synod Report for 2025	15
Three in One Magazine	16

Our Benefice Vision:

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

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE GREENWAY BENEFICE ANNUAL REPORT OF 2025

This year I have the privilege of writing this introduction on behalf of your ministry team, and I do not take that responsibility lightly. I warmly commend this report to you. It offers a window into our shared life in God's name, moments of service, faith, and community and we hope you will take time to read and reflect on all that has taken place across the benefice.

Above all, I wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone who contributes to the life of our churches and communities. Some roles are more visible, but so much is offered quietly and faithfully behind the scenes, and much is upheld in prayer. Every contribution is deeply valued and forms an essential part of our shared ministry.

If your name is not mentioned, please be assured of our gratitude, particularly those who care for our buildings, prepare them for worship, and those whose musical gifts enrich our services week by week.

We remain deeply thankful for our partnerships across the villages. In particular, with the school and its head, Jon Millin; Shurdington Chapel and their pastor, Steve Jones; Wendy Lovett at Beauty and the Teacup; Louise Slee and the Scout group; Meadows Day Nursery; Shurdington Preschool; and the Parish Councils. These relationships continue to strengthen our shared life. Together, we have celebrated, told the stories of Easter and Christmas, worshipped, gathered for both Summerfest and Winterfest, shared in the Book Club, raised funds for charities, and created welcoming spaces for our communities.

Our link with Shurdington Church of England Primary School remains a particular blessing. This close relationship enables much of our work with children and young people. Many parishioners contribute to the life of the school with our amazing "Open the book" team and All Stars, and we are always pleased to welcome pupils and staff into our church buildings for worship and other occasions such as our "Experience" events. It is a partnership we greatly value.

I also want to highlight the amazing work of our small groups. The Bible studies and new Nicodemus group, that help to build relationships and advance all our discipleship as we seek to understand God's word better and develop our theological understanding. Thank you to everyone who leads and participates in these groups.

Acts of remembrance are also an important part of our shared life. At St Pauls' Remembrance service, it was especially moving to welcome nearly a hundred uniformed young people and their families from the Scout group into the church. Their presence brought a strong sense of unity and respect, as generations gathered together in reflection and thanksgiving.

As ever, finances remain a concern, and we are grateful for the commitment and creativity shown in fundraising across our churches. Many of these events are both missional and community-focused, offering hospitality as well as raising essential funds. Further details can be found in the reports from churchwardens, trustees, and treasurers.

This has been a year of both change and encouragement within the ministry team. We give thanks for Rebecca's ministry and are delighted that she has returned to the benefice with Permission to Officiate. It is a joy to welcome her back. We also celebrated my ordination to the priesthood, and I am excited to continue my ministry with you over the coming year.

We are blessed with a ministry team whose gifts complement one another, and you will find contributions from many of them within this report. We encourage you to thank them personally for their dedication and care.

We also express our gratitude to all those listed earlier in the report, and to our churchwardens, Sue, Lynne, Andrew, Roger, and Paul for their faithful service. I also wish to thank all of our PCC members for their commitment to the worshipping life in the Greenway. I also want to offer particular thanks to Chris, our administrator, and Rachel Cottell our safeguarding officer for their dedication, generosity, and commitment.

As you read these reports, I invite you to consider how you might become more involved in the life of the benefice. There are many opportunities to participate, whether through small groups, Open the Book, the choir, the Book Club, or other activities. If something resonates with you, or if you have new ideas to offer, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

As a Christian community, we continue to seek, with open hearts, to grow ever more deeply as disciples of Christ. It is both a joy and a privilege for us, as a team, to walk alongside you in this shared calling. We are grateful for the ways in which we support and encourage one another, and for the grace that sustains us in our common life.

We pray that, together across the benefice, we may keep serving with love and faithfulness, bringing hope to our communities and making Christ known in both word and action throughout the world.

As St Augustine says, “Where there is love, there is God.”

Rev’d Daniel Newman

(on behalf of the whole ministry team)



GREENWAY GIFTS

Our Benefice Food Bank, Greenway Gifts, has continued its service weekly on Mondays , thanks to the generosity of many and a good number of volunteer helpers, and has enabled up to 25 households to benefit weekly throughout the year from a bag of groceries and household products and at Christmas and Easter to have seasonal treats; special thanks to those who made donations for those. It is also much appreciated when a glut of garden produce is brought along to be shared. Each week we see a steady group of regulars and usually one or two new visitors.



On the third Monday of the month the regular donations are augmented with refreshments – tea, coffee and cake - for those who like to stay and chat. Some recipe ideas are available to help with best use of the food available.

The services of the organisation have been enhanced by regular visitors from the charitable organisation, the DAISI project, who are able to provide assistance with IT advice and in the form of SIM cards for our visitors, and also with improving our recording of stock and turnover. Representatives from Citizens Advice are also available on the third Monday to advise those who need it on where assistance may be found.

We are particularly grateful to Rob Poole for his stoical undertaking of the “weekly shop” and to all those who regularly contribute financially or in kind. Greenway Gifts is very grateful to those local councils and associated organisations who have given generous grants which enable the food-buying to be done.

Sue Padfield

FUNERAL MINISTER’S REPORT

I have now been Funeral Minister for the Benefice for seven years. My how time has flown!

As I have said and reported many times, taking funeral services is a great privilege. To be able to do God’s work in supporting relatives and friends at one of the most difficult times in their lives is in itself rewarding. Every bereavement is unique, not simply because the person that has died was unique, but also because family dynamics are so very different.

At the end of this last year, I did a quick count of all the funeral events I have been involved with, and it came to seventeen, of which nine were for parishes and benefices not our own. Obviously, Revds. Susan and Daniel have done quite a few. Revd Daniel as part of his training and Revd Susan because she had deep pastoral connections with families.

Gloucester Funerals was launched about five years ago now and continues to ease the load on our Churchwardens and Treasurers, as well as Funeral Directors. As a result, I have been to parts of the Diocese I have not been to before.

As I reported last year, our churchyards are getting full and so some hard decisions have been made on occasion in respect of burials and ashes interments. These decisions are not easy to make and can be upsetting for families and ministers alike, but we do have a responsibility to the residents of the benefice and the individual parishes to use our limited resources fairly.

In addition to the reducing capacities of our churchyards, and those across the Diocese, new, more stringent rules regarding churchyards have been made with existing rules also tightened up. This has caused difficulties for one or two families along with an increased responsibility for ministers to limit the expectations with regards to headstones, cremation tablets, flower vases etc. Nobody likes to say an emphatic "NO" to suggestions and requests, but we have to be fair to all families, wildlife, grounds maintenance staff and the wider communities to keep our churchyards safe, tidy and attractive.

I have, on occasion, suggested that if families feel the need for a shrine with a lot of ornamentation, then perhaps the best place is at their own home where it is closer to hand and damage by weather and wildlife can be limited more easily.

Robert Poole, Reader & Funeral Minister

READERS' REPORT

It seems barely a year since I was writing my last report; time has flown by. I think that that in itself must be a testimony to how much I personally (and I am sure Robert feels the same way) have enjoyed exercising ministry as a Reader in the benefice. Everything has run smoothly from our point of view, and real credit must go to Susan, the church wardens, sacristans and general "organisers" within each parish that make our work so welcomed and so trusted.

We would like to offer special thanks to Daniel who has fitted into the benefice so seamlessly, most noticeably when stepping into the role of 'guv'nor' whilst Susan was acting- Archdeacon. He proved himself to me personally by always managing to end an L.M.T. meeting on time!

Joking aside, I would like to also record our thanks to Tammy, Jocelyn and Ezra who have brought so much to the benefice worship, the children's' exuberance at the offering of the peace is always a delight. We hope their experience of worship with us is as enjoyable for them.

Vaughan Kerry, Reader.

GREENWAY COMMUNITY CHOIR

Greenway Community Choir continues to flourish under the musical direction of Matt Richardson assisted by Revd Susan. Chris Langham helps to keep our administration on track.
The choir has a family feel, and this year we have gained a few more youngsters, which is wonderful. They add a great deal to our community vibe!

In 2025 we met most Thursdays during term time, with an average turnout of about twenty singers, although we have more members in total. We enjoy a variety of music and the focus is on fun not perfection. During 2025 we sang at many events, some as part of the overall event, and some where we sang our own pieces of music for the audience or congregation.

Winter Market Fest was the first "concert" of the year, where we sang for thirty minutes as part of the musical entertainment for the afternoon.

The choir was invited to several of our church services in school. We sang at the Songs of Praise service at St Paul's in the summer, as well as at the school on 29th June, where we joined the school ukulele band. They then joined us at church in the afternoon to sing a special song for Revd Daniel at his first eucharist as a priest.

We sang at Summer Fest and presented a special song for Revd Rebecca at her last service before her retirement as our Associate Priest. Don't worry - she took six months off and has now returned as a licensed retired priest.

Many of us attended Evensong on 8th September, where we sang psalms, which was a new experience for some of us.
During December, there were multiple opportunities to sing carols, in the pubs, care homes and churches. We enjoyed working with Sarah Kelly and the school ukulele band so much that we worked with them at the Community Carol service as well.

Thanks to all of our members, who contribute in so many ways. The choir remains free to everyone, although we welcome donations if people can afford it. Our finances are healthy and we have a strong core of regular attenders, as well as those who come when they are able.

We are looking forward to 2026, when we have been invited to sing again at Winter Market Fest, a wedding and the Summer Fete. We're also planning our own concert in June 2026.

All are welcome to join the choir, and we don't mind at all if you can't sing!

LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

Comprising all the clergy and readers and with lay members also representing our parishes, the Local Ministry Team has continued to meet regularly throughout the year to lead and guide the mission and ministry of all the members of our churches throughout this Benefice of Greenway.

In addition to planning the timing and composition of services throughout the year, LMT follows a working Benefice Strategy document which is considered and updated regularly. This strategy is linked to the Diocese's LIFE Vision and the Everyday Discipleship action plan which we developed a few years ago and its overall aims are:

1. All 3 churches open & flourishing in 5 years' time
2. All 3 parishes/Benefice as a whole able to pay Parish Share *and* invest in Mission
3. More people reached by the Church.
4. A closer, more united Benefice.
5. A Benefice where discipleship and everyday faith flourish.

To further these aims, LMT works on developing wider use of church buildings, such as for concerts, Eco issues, communication, especially with the wider community, with those in new housing, with Wedding couples and Baptismal families, with the residents of our Care Homes, the Benefice partnership with the school, on a variety in worship and music, on furthering discipleship through themed worship, prayer and small study groups, and on the team's own refreshment and spiritual development.

In 2025 an Away Day was held and there was much involvement in the primary school, including weekly collective worship, weekly prayer group and All Stars and 5th Sunday services. Church members helped to lead Experience Easter for the children. Eco week was organised, and Family Experience events were held – Easter activities, outdoor autumn activities and a make-your-own-Christingle service.

The journey of Holy Week was marked each day, and there were services for those who wished to reflect at All-Souls'-tide and for Blue Christmas. The small groups continued to nurture and support their members, and the Nicodemus group was led on Sunday evenings by Rev'd Dan to investigate and discuss questions raised by attendees. Throughout the year LMT has continued to pray for all in the Benefice and to be mindful of those with particular needs.

Sue Padfield

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 RevdSusan, Revd Daniel and the three PCCs.

Most members of the PCCs have completed the Diocesan Basic Awareness and Foundation safeguarding training courses and the required training course on Domestic Abuse. All clergy and Rachel, as the Benefice Safeguarding Officer, have completed the Safeguarding Leadership training course.
Most members of our PCCS have a current DBS certificate.

It is an ongoing challenge to ensure all members of our PCCs have the appropriate level of safeguarding training in place. Members are reminded at each meeting that these are a requirement of holding a post on the PCC.

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.
All three parishes have a Parish Dashboard www.parishdashboards.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Dashboard is an online tool, which uses the guidance from the Church of England to enable us to check what we have done and highlight what needs to be done, to ensure that our churches are safer places.
Safeguarding is a standing item on all PCC agendas and Rachel regularly reports to the PCCs on safeguarding.

BENEFICE SMALL GROUPS



During the year several small groups have regularly met for fellowship, bible study and prayer. The long-established Bible Study group continued to meet on Wednesday afternoons throughout the year, with hospitality generously given by Averil Cole and Janet Holmes.

The other groups were initially convened during the time of lock-down, initially meeting on zoom; one remains on zoom, others meet in person on Tuesday or Wednesday, afternoons or evenings.

All the groups share news, provide mutual, confidential support, read and discuss passages from the Bible and share prayers. Sometimes the lectionary readings for the forthcoming Sunday are looked at; this often proves very helpful on that Sunday when the readings are heard again and the sermon expounds them.

Sometimes a book of the Bible is "serialised" in its entirety, which often provides a different perspective, and, in the case of an Old Testament book adds to our understanding of the New.; sometimes, such as in Lent and Advent, a study course is followed.

Prayer is an important part of each gathering and, as well as local and global concerns, will include prayers for each other and the situations we face in our everyday discipleship

The members of all these groups find in them support, help and a furtherance of understanding of our faith in word and action.

We are very grateful to our hosts and to all who contribute. Group membership is flexible; they are reviewed periodically; groups are always pleased to welcome new members, membership may decline, new groups can be set up, so, if you are interested, why not have a word with the Vicar, Dan, Chris Langham or Sue or one of the members and give it a try!

Sue Padfield

MINISTRY TO CARE HOMES





Bishop Robert: "the LIFE Together verse of scripture from John 10:10, is where Jesus says,
"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
"That's what I've seen here (Badgeworth Court). It reminds us that life is for us all, no matter what age we are at or challenges we face."

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. 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.

It is lovely to be welcomed warmly into both care homes to lead worship, and to build links with the care home residents and their local church, with a group of four or five residents regularly worshipping at Holy Trinity. Our thanks go to the staff at Badgeworth Court for enabling this to happen.
It is also lovely to be welcomed into our local care homes to sit with residents who are reaching the end of their lives, and to offer prayer for them and their families.

Both Badgeworth Court and Chargrove Lawn are supported by the Anna Chaplaincy CaBiC team (Bible Reading Fellowship), with Easter and Christmas gifts being given to all who are resident in our homes. I am the Anna Chaplain to Badgeworth Court, offering pastoral care to staff and residents.

As always, thank you to Revd Susan, Revd Daniel and Sue Padfield for leading services and being members of the team supporting those who live in our local care settings.

Rachel Cottell
Lay Worship Leader (Greenway benefice)
Community Dementia Link and Trainer (Dementia Training & Education Strategy for Gloucestershire)

CHILDREN'S WORK IN THE GREENWAY BENEFICE

"OPEN THE BOOK" at Shurdington Church of England Primary School in 2025

Our Open the Book Team now has eleven members, plus, of course, the school children and members of staff who join in and add sound effects and crowd scenes.
Such strong support enables us to cope easily with last minute absences which are inevitable, given that most of us are senior citizens. We enjoy excellent working relations with school staff having worked together successfully for the past 25 years.

In 2025, 35 Bible stories were acted out on Tuesday mornings at the School Assembly.
In preparation, Team members receive the narrative of the Bible story, structured as a script, having previously agreed the parts they would play. In the Introduction, background to the story is given and the part the whole school can play in that story. The children really enjoy participation, whether as sheep bleating, a donkey braying or a storm.

Here's one story:

Runaway Slave - Paul's Letter to Philemon

Open	**Close**	**Narrator**	**Paul**	**Onesimus**	**Guards**	**Philemon**	**Tychicus**
					2 boys		
Props: Coins. Bags to hold letters. Prison cell in Rome. Fruit and water. Philemon's house in Colossae				**Scenes:** Paul writing letters in prison. Meeting Onesimus. 1,300-mile journey, Rome to Colossae. Philemon reading letter in his house in Colossae			

Introduction: *Can you imagine being a slave? No freedom to do what you want. No money of your own. Just hard work and the risk of being beaten if you displease your Master. We think slavery is ancient history. Slavery ended in the British Empire in 1833, but I've just read there are still about 50 million slaves in the world! In today's story a slave steals and runs away from his Master but comes back to be his friend.*
Let's Open the Book to read: ***"Runaway Slave!"***

Before our 'practice session' of today's 10-minute story, we seek volunteer "actors".
We enter the classroom and almost every hand goes up!
In this story, two soldiers will wear helmet & breastplate and are armed with swords.

Each acted story is followed by a conclusion when we reflect on the story's implications for us. All join in the closing prayer by saying 'Amen'.

All 90 narrative stories in Bob Hartman's new "Storytelling Bible" have been converted into scripts to be acted out. In addition to these 90 stories, we have some 75 stories from "The Lion Storyteller Bible", also in

script form. Starting with Genesis and going all the way through to Revelation, these stories cover a large part of the Bible story.
The Storytellers' Handbook gives us an introduction, conclusion and closing prayer, drawing out the lessons to be learned from the story and how they can apply to ourselves.

As storytellers, we are sharing the Bible with children, inviting each child to take part in the storytelling. We hope this will lead them to explore the Bible for themselves.

In their imagination they will walk in the garden of Eden, put on Joseph's coat of many colours, splash through the parted sea, hear the angels' song at Jesus' birth. They will leave their fishing nets and follow Jesus; taste the loaves and fishes, peer into the empty tomb, see prison bars open and hear the trumpet call in heaven.

John Noble



ALL STARS

All Stars is a Christian after-school club for KS1 and sometimes Reception children at Shurdington Primary School and is run there on behalf of the Benefice churches, weekly in term-time after school for an hour.

Once fortified after a busy school day with a drink and biscuit, these younger children and their parents, if they wish it, are offered more on the Christian faith.

Sessions usually include the children's favourite marching song, involve a story, sometimes acted out, songs, prayer and a craft activity. Many of the children are very knowledgeable and insightful and will also volunteer their own prayers willingly and thoughtfully. Anyone who would like to visit us on Mondays between 3.15 and 4.15 would be very welcome.

Sue Padfield & Lynne Cooper

MOTHERS' UNION

Our programme for Mothers' Union meetings has been diverse, varied and entertaining throughout the year. From Mark King whose presentation was about a tiny island in Papua New Guinea to Cheltenham Town Cryer (Ken Brightwell) who came in full regalia with his impressive handbell.



In January it was a delight to us all that Jane Morley was enrolled as a member during our Corporate Communion Service by Revd. Susan Cooke. She is a very valued member of our Branch.

The core of our meetings is worship, fellowship, companionship and Love but cake and a chance to chat together is also important. We are an aging group with a wealth of experience about family life and the nurturing of children.

Mothers' Union is a worldwide organisation still very relevant in our chaotic world and the global Wave of Prayer reflects our commitment to each other. In this our 150th year we have been challenged to inspire awareness of our organisation and in July we are preparing a special service in our Benefice to which you are all invited. Watch out for further announcements in the 3in1 Magazine.



Special thanks must go to Revd Susan Cooke, Revd Daniel Newman, Revd Ian Gobey and John Stanley for their continued support.

As I write this report we are coming to terms with the unexpected and sudden death of Sue Woods. She has been a dedicated member for almost fifty years and a very dear friend to us all. She has always been a source of calm, common sense and support and she will be greatly missed.

Chris Nation

SEVERN VALE DEANERY - SYNOD REPORT FOR 2025

The Severn Vale Deanery – 12 Benefices including over 40 churches – continues to be led by our Area Dean, the Reverend Canon Jacqui Hyde, and our Lay Chair, Sue Padfield, with Steve Riddick serving as Secretary and Derek Wright as both Parish Share Officer and Treasurer.

Deanery Synods are usually held three times per calendar year, to share matters of common interest and to act as a conduit with the Diocese. Details of Synods held in 2025 are as follows:

Thursday 6th March 2025 *(at Holy Trinity, Badgeworth)*

The principal topics of this evening were (i) the Diocese's current thoughts on how to fund future Parish Share, including reference to related questionnaires, future meetings with the Diocese, and how the new system is intended to be more "collaborative" than existing arrangements; and (ii) a presentation on issues facing Primary School Education by Stephen Dean, the CEO of Primary Quest (a grouping of nine – about to be ten – primary schools, mostly Church of England, in our area), with concerns mainly related to inadequate funding in the light of higher costs, increasing numbers of Special Educational Needs Children, higher parental demands and similar issues putting ever more strain on both finances and staff.

Tuesday 8th July 2025 *(at St Mary's, Newent)*

The main business of this Synod was for us to hear from and raise questions to Bishop Rachel, who had spent the whole day in the Deanery, including visits to Churcham, Newent, Minsterworth, Churchdown, Innsworth and Hartpury. Bishop Rachel talked about how most of what we do ties in with the LIFE Vision; whether we spend too much of our time on internal matters rather than on reaching out; and how we can best collaborate to use the various gifts of our clergy and laity. She encouraged us to never lose sight of our greater purpose (i.e. the Kingdom of God); to be mission-focussed and resource-aware; and to always remain humble and confident in our faith. Questions to her from the floor then covered topics such as Living in Love and Faith,

Wednesday 15th October 2025 *(at St Mary and St Bartholomew, Ashleworth)*

This Synod was largely focussed on the Seven Sacred Spaces model of church life (the seven being Cell/Retreat, Chapel/Encounter, Chapter/Contribute, Cloister/Connect, Garden/Serve, Refectory/Eat and Scriptorium/Explore). After discussion of the concepts, we heard firstly from Will Mansell – the founder of the Grace Network – about how they use the model to ensure the work they do (mainly in social enterprises, helping those suffering from poverty and a lack of support structures) covers all bases. Rich Witham and Kelsey Martyn from Sportily then spoke about what they are doing in our area (including things such as After-School Clubs, Breakfast Cafés and support during longer holidays), and how the model helps check their work is properly balanced. After break-out groups to consider the concepts further, we then

heard from Jacqui Hyde of how Deanery Operations Leaders are currently being recruited for three Deaneries, and how we hope to be in the next batch.

Full Deanery Synod minutes and other information on all the above can be found on the Deanery website, or via the Secretary.

Steve Riddick, Secretary to the Deanery Synod
28 February 2026

THREE IN ONE REPORT FOR 2025

The magazine was produced and distributed throughout 2025. This was the first year with ten editions, with two double-month issues covering July-August and December-January. Colour covers were used for the March and December editions which featured the celebration of Easter and Christmas.

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 and numerous people act as distributors.

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

Looking forward, the magazine is financially viable. The number of subscribers is slowly declining, a reflection of the increasing reliance on online services. We could ask whether housing developments within the benefice will counter-balance this trend.

Additional subscribers and new advertisers would be beneficial; do please spread the word