

Deanery Synod Report 2021/2022

Working together has very much been the “big issue” of our year together for Shrewsbury Churches. We’ve found ways of meeting – online and increasingly in person again – to support each other, share ideas and good practice, and begin to think through where we are heading on this COVID journey.

We have seven “Deanery Synod” representatives who are part of this conversation.... alongside the clergy team being part of Deanery Chapter, and Phil Cansdale as Area Dean. As Deanery Synod we met three times during the year. The main discussion item was “Shaping for Mission”, and in particular how we might increase a sense of partnership and collaboration. This comes partly in the light of the current proposal to merge Shrewsbury and Wrockwardine deaneries, which is still under consideration. The current summary document is as follows.

Other areas explored this year include:

ECO-CHURCH. Where have churches got to in their eco-journey and how has it been affected by COVID?

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH. This is a national C of E initiative aiming to engage all church members in conversations about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, with the aim of discerning what might God be saying to the church today?

THE UKRAINE. Looking at ways in which local churches and individual Christians might help Ukrainian refugees coming to Shrewsbury.

Shaping for Mission

Ministry and mission which is more effective, fruitful and sustainable across Shrewsbury and Wrockwardine Deaneries



Partnerships and Collaboration

We repeatedly voiced a concern about lack of partnerships, and the call to discover a more collaborative approach to our life together.

NEXT STEPS: (1) New enlarged deanery (2) Shrewsbury Town Centre? (3) Wrockwardine shape of new leadership? (4) Local “clusters” with stronger sense of shared mission and ministry for wider areas

Children, youth and young adults

We recognise the huge challenges we face in reaching new generations, but are also excited about the possibility and potential of church-school links, or cross-deanery projects, and of increased collaboration for leaders.

NEXT STEPS: (1) Seasonal cross-church gatherings (2) Church-school links (3) Leaders forum



Ministry to new areas of housing

We want to embrace the changing geography of the local area, and the opportunities of new housing areas in Shrewsbury and surrounding urban areas.

NEXT STEPS: (1) Facilitate first steps (2) Consider housing stock location (3) Explore “third space” ministry

Deepening our spiritual life

We remain dependent on God for all things, and affirm the need to be cultivating the sort of conditions in which our spiritual life can grow and more fully reflect the breadth of church traditions across the local area.

NEXT STEPS: (1) Inter-church resourcing (2) Annual rhythm of input / themes / gatherings (3) Linking God’s story with our local story



Fresh Expressions of Church

We’re excited by the opportunities opening up for fresh expressions of church, including a growing online presence at this stage of our COVID journey.

NEXT STEPS: (1) FX journeys and mixed ecology of church? (2) Building Community more effectively? (3) Collaborate in online presence