



Bristol West Deanery Synod Annual Report 2023

Introduction

Three Deanery Synods took place, all were held in person, unlike the two previous years when many meetings had to be conducted by Zoom.

In 2023 and the key themes were:

- **Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T**
- **Understanding the TC.T Value - Generosity**
- **DLT Elections and understanding the TC.T Value - Creativity**

March Deanery Synod: Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T

Deanery Synod on 14 March 2023 focused upon this being a Triennial Year and exploring the missional opportunities with Bristol West. The Meeting was held in person at St Mary's Leigh Woods.

Triennial Year

Synod was reminded by the Area Dean that this is a Triennial year. Consequently, Deanery Representative will need to be elected at APCMs for a three-year term of office and in accordance with the number stipulated for parishes and united benefices.

The Deanery Synod Annual Report will be ready for circulation prior to the commencement of APCMs.

The Main Theme: Missional Communities and Missional Engagement TC.T

The Area Dean welcomed Rob Mountain, Director of Transformation, and members of the Diocesan Transformation Team. Rob introduced the session with some slides demonstrating the reason why this Diocese is participating in the National Emerging Church programme and how this begins to translate at a local level.

Following the TCT overview, Synod broke into discussion groups to identify the active opportunities that might start to shape the projects across the Deanery that could form a

focus for TCT Missional Community activities. Recognising that some of these projects could and should cross boundaries of geography, parish, deanery, denominations, inter-faith and other organizations.

Discussion output is included with these minutes (see attachment) and have been gathered under the emergent headings:

- **Activities and Events**
- **Worship and Teaching**
- **Crossing Boundaries**
- **Culture Shift**
- **Resourcing**

The Uganda Link

Rev Janet Hill and Sarah Thomas updated Synod on the Deanery trip to our link Dioceses in N Uganda which took place at the end of October 2022.

May Deanery Synod: The ‘Transforming Church. Together’ Value ‘Generosity’

Deanery Synod on 17 May 2023 focused upon our understanding of the TC.T value – ‘Generosity’ - and how this is exhibited in our words and actions. The Meeting was held in person at Christ Church Clifton.

The Main Theme: Generosity, one of the four values within Transforming Church. Together

The Area Dean reminded us of the four values of the diocese, Openness, Creativity, Generosity and Bravery. We reflected in pairs and groups on the diocesan definition,

‘We value generosity and receive and give sincerely. We give our time and resources to share what we know of Jesus’ love. We want our communities to feel supported and cared for in the way Jesus would do, to experience God’s love through our action and an opportunity to journey into faith if they choose.’

Then in different groups we discussed what generosity looked like, we shared ideas and wrote on post it notes. There was feedback from every group, including a range of suggestions, from publicising food baskets in churches to showing generosity in our listening towards others stories.

The Uganda Link

Rev Janet Lee showed slides from the trip last October and in particular of Lira Palwo clinic, the remote health clinic in Kitgum Diocese which is this year's deanery project.

October Deanery Synod: The 'Transforming Church. Together' Value 'Creativity

Deanery Synod on 5 October 2023 focused upon DLT Elections and the TC.T value of Creativity. The Meeting was held in person at Holy Trinity, Westbury on Trym.

The Main Theme: Creativity, one of the four values within Transforming Church. Together

Elections to the DLT

It was noted that there was a lack of clarity as to the purpose and functions of the DLT, action on Area Dean to circulate role descriptions for clergy and lay reps ahead of next Deanery Synod.

Creativity

Caroline Jowett-Ive, Diocesan Director of People and Bishop's Staff link to Bristol West, reported on the Transforming Church Together, TCT, 5-year programme to bring transformation with £6.8million grant. The money would help fund new roles, both full and part time, permanent and temporary, clergy and lay. Two particular new roles to note concerning clergy in our deanery, were Rev Andy Murray, now made Dean of priority communities and Rev Anjali Kanagaratnam, Racial Justice coordinator.

Caroline then introduced the evening's key topic 'Creativity':

'We value creativity and we co-operate with the work of the Spirit. We are faithful, rooted in faith and responsive to the Spirit. Our communities feel inspired, this is bold and joyful faith, work and worship that engages us all. We want our communities to experience a variety of projects and worship styles, celebrating tradition and innovation in connection to God.'

Looking at the definition of creativity, the synod then discussed in small groups how creativity was and could be expressed in their parishes. The results are attached to this report.

The Uganda Link

The Revd. Janet Lee mentioned the bank issues currently being addressed and which will be shortly resolved. She also talked about the Bristol-Uganda partnership, which is now 54 years old, and that it will be an item for discussion at Bishop's Council in December.