

Report from Christchurch Deanery Synod 2019

There were 3 meetings of Synod during 2019. At the first meeting in February, the pMAP 2019 process was discussed and details given of the resources available in support. Parishes were urged to progress the review and updating of their pMAPs and share the outcomes even as work in progress. In her report, Gill Tybjerg said that the Deanery had contributed nearly £10,000 in 2018 to the activities in Kinkiizi and 4 Deanery members had recently paid a successful visit to the Diocese. The Deanery treasurer informed the meeting that the target CMF contribution for 2019 had increased by some £130,000. Since the Deanery had failed to meet the previous year's target, he encouraged members to discuss this year's targets with PCCs early and flag up any issues.

The main topic at the second meeting of Synod in May was a presentation by Dave Pegg who is a Schools Work Leader with PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education). PACE is a small charity established in 1994 which partners with local churches in Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch to provide learning opportunities in schools. PACE's aim is to visit every school, meet every student in 6 assemblies a year, and give talks with a leader and teams which they would build from the churches around. A specific initiative planned for six weeks in November/December is to park a 'Jesus Lives' lorry in a number of primary school playgrounds. The Synod meeting also heard an update on Kinkiizi which included details of 'Kinkiizi Sunday' on 2nd June and the visit to the Diocese planned for May 2020 to coincide with their Silver Jubilee celebrations.

The final 2019 Synod meeting took place in September. Two items of urgent Deanery specific business were dealt with:

- (i) agreeing a motion to go to Diocesan Synod urging the Diocese to organize a Diocesan-wide Stewardship campaign. The aim would be to encourage and enthuse generous giving across the Diocese,
- (ii) agreeing to set up a charity to enable the Kinkiizi Action Group to claim Gift Aid on personal donations.

It was also reported that the Revds Eric and James from Kinkiizi had a successful visit in June. They were mainly here on behalf of the water and sanitation charity, WATSAN, to go on a sponsored walk in the Brecon Beacons. This raised around £17,000, enabling completion of the projects in the schools around Kihih.

The new Bishop of Southampton, Debbie Sellin, spoke to Synod about her personal journey of faith. She also advised the meeting that the New Milton Church Plant would no longer be eligible for funding and extra support from the Diocese would now be sought. The closing session of the meeting focused on supporting dMAP priorities, particularly the use of print and digital tools to communicate well.

John Dowsett
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