



The Wycombe Deanery continues as a family of 35 churches spread across 28 parishes in and around High Wycombe. Like any family, it contains significant diversity and stretches from the Thames Valley in the South East to the Chiltern Escarpment in the North West. It comprises the urban areas in High Wycombe, a few small towns and dozens of villages in the beautiful surrounding countryside within the Chiltern AONB.

The Deanery Synod meets four times a year and is like the PCC for the Deanery. Its members are all the licensed Clergy serving in the Deanery area plus about 60 representatives elected from the parishes led by the Lay Chair, Caroline Sants, and the Area Dean Dave Bull. They are supported by Nick Gallant, Associate Lay Chair (paid position for 20 hours per week). There is the Deanery Chapter which is a gathering of the Clergy which meets in order to build up their relationships and to give support to each other. There is also a Standing Committee responsible for planning Synod meetings, keeping watch over finances and organising the three yearly church inspections and a then lastly a Mission and Pastoral Team responsible for long term strategy.

The Deanery is not a big Parish. It does not aim to have a worshipping or missional life outside the churches it serves and takes care to enhance and not displace the life of local churches. Neither is it a small Diocese. It does not have its own resources of money or staff to deploy and its only resources are those freely given by the local churches. One thing all churches share in common is a vision to see the churches of Wycombe Deanery flourishing individually, working effectively together and contributing to the renewal of the wider church.

The Deanery believe passionately that God is at work renewing and reforming his church in this country and is committed to playing its part in this work. It believes that as it joins together, with each sharing freely what God has given us, the Spirit will lead us into growth as we follow Jesus together.

To guide Synod on this journey, its members have articulated four principles that is hoped will underpin all that is done within the Deanery together:

- Serving our fellowships - The Deanery exists to serve its churches.
- Shaping our future - We take responsibility for leading our churches into growth.
- Spurring on our friends - Learning to work better together.
- Sharing the fire - Growing the vision.

On the Deanery website (www.wycombedeanery.com), you will find details of our churches, our strategic deanery plan and other information about our life together. Please pray for us and let us know if there is any way we can serve you.

All Saints' Deanery Synod Reps (2023/24):

Clergy Reps:

Revd Jackie Lock
Revd Gareth Morley (To Jul 23)
Fr Anthony Searle (From Nov 23)

Laity Reps:

Barry Titchen
Ray Levy
David Knights (To Apr 23)
Sue Lord (From Jul 23)

The Wycombe Deanery Synod has met in person 4 times during the past year:

- Christchurch, Flackwell Heath, on 23 January 2023
- All Saints, Marlow, on 26 April 2023
- Holy Trinity, Lane End, on 18 July 2023
- St Paul's, St Paul's, West Wycombe, on 16 October 2023

The format of each meeting is roughly the same:

A social half hour or so with light refreshments before the meeting is called to order (8pm),

A welcoming prayer which is usually followed by a short brief about the hosting church and the issues it has or is facing.

There is usually a presentation and discussion period on a topic of interest affecting the Deanery. Recent topics have been:

- Refocusing Our Vision: Mid-way review of the Deanery Plan and a focus on the next 3 years.
- Sharing the Fire - Stories to inspire from around the Deanery.
- Sharing the Fire - Working with the Children and Teenagers.
- Sharing the Faith - More inspiring stories from around the Deanery.

Deanery Business takes up the last 45 minutes or so when there is usually an update on vacancies, major events within the Deanery, finances, lay committee reports and updates from the parishes.

Key activities within the past year within the Deanery has been:

- Follow-up work associated with the Deanery Plan for 2021 to 2025 - the Plan sets out the aims and objectives for the Deanery over the period and is available on the Wycombe Deanery Website (www.wycombedeanery.com). Key focus areas to be:
 - Serving our Fellowships.
 - Shaping our Future.
 - Spurring on our Friends.
 - Sharing the Fire.
- The focus for the next 3 years will be:
 - Sharing the Fire - meeting with other Deaneries.
 - Wellbeing - support for our lay and Clergy leaders.
 - Rural Forum - developing fellowship, opportunities, resources, understanding and momentum across the rural parishes within the Deanery.
 - Next Generation - encouraging more young people to become involved with new opportunities for meeting and fellowship.

- New Congregations – planting new seeds for growing new and existing parishes
- Continuing with work implementing the recommendations of the Rural Review which considered the best way forward for the rural parishes within the Deanery in dealing with keeping the churches open and regular service running.
- Sharing the Faith:
- Sharing the Fire with Children and Teenagers:
 - Part of the Deanery plan is to encourage the next generation and to grow the church to maturity in Christ, there are 3 goals: serve each of the 52 schools in the Deanery; take the next step forward in children and youth work; and, share ideas in support. The Deanery has a number of paid parish youth workers (some deaneries have none).
 - Review of Activities within the Deanery at:
 - Flackwell Heath, West Wycombe, Bisham, Downley and Lighthouse.
- Active recruitment drive to reduce the number of vacancies across the Deanery.
- Introduction of a new Parish Share calculation methodology for 2024.

A detailed report on each meeting of the Deanery Synod is presented to the All Saints PCC and is available from the PCC Secretary.

The next Deanery Synod Meeting will be held at St James, Downley on Wednesday, 1st May 2024.

Ray Levy Sue Lord Barry Titchen

March 2024

(All Saints' Laity Deanery Reps)