

The Parish Church of St. John the Baptist, Wickhamford

Deanery Synod Report 2022

2022 was the first full year of the restructured Deanery Synod. Broadway and Wickhamford Benefice is part of the Evesham and Pershore Deanery; Sarah Dangerfield is the area Dean.

It was decided that a DLT (Deanery Leadership Team) be set up to discuss and make progress on priorities for the Deanery and plan meetings of the Deanery Synod. I have served on the DLT from early 2022.

The focus in 2022 was finding a way forward for the Church of England through the current difficulties experienced as dropping attendance and aging congregations. Through consultation with all the Deanery Synods the following priorities have been identified:

- Increasing the number of children and young people attending church.
- Investing in the renewal of central churches in each major centre of population, with a minimum of 150 people attending weekly.
- Creating new worshipping communities with a range of opportunities to attend – different places, different days, different times.

In this Deanery other priorities emerged:

- Incorporating the significant new developments/new towns at Throckmorton and Worcester Parkway.
- Paying the Benefice Share.

At grass roots level other priorities remain:

- Caring for ancient, listed buildings.
- Sharing resources, expertise, ALMs to keep the show on the road.

During 2023 I have attended 3 Deanery Synod meetings, 1 actual and 2 Zoom meetings.

As a member of DLT, I have attended 6 meetings, 5 actual and 1 Zoom.

J S Knight,
PCC Secretary, St John the Baptist, Wickhamford.