

## **Deanery Synod meetings in 2020**

The Synod met just twice in 2020, in person in February and via Zoom in October.

February's meeting was hosted by Rev'd Canon Bimbi Abayomi-Cole at Paul's Crofton. At this meeting the main feature was an interview, conducted by Area Dean John Musson, of Matthew Girt, the Diocesan Secretary. The format was rather unusual in that it was like 'Desert Island Discs', with Matthew choosing some music around which he could speak about his faith and his role.

Other matters covered at that meeting were an update on 'Called to grow' and a decision to abandon the Deanery Website due to lack of interest and use.

This was the last meeting of the current Deanery Synod and it was anticipated that elections would be held in each parish for new representatives at churches APCMs a few months later. We knew little of what was about to dominate our lives for the rest of the year.

Like St Martin's, most churches postponed their APCMs until October and so separate arrangements had to be made for electing new members of Synod. In our case it was complicated by the fact that we now only have two seats on synod. Following discussion the PCC agreed that Mary Tozer and Steve McCann would be our representatives.

The October meeting, held on Zoom, unfortunately clashed with a St Martin's PCC meeting, so we were only able to attend for part of it.

The main three items were

- a discussion of the IICSA report into C of E,
- Archdeacon Julie Conalty gave a Safeguarding update, and
- Abi Hiscock, our Archdeaconry's 'Growth Enabler' gave a presentation around the changing focus of her work. Essentially, growth is unrealistic during the pandemic. The initiative is being refocused as Version 2.0, which is likely to support churches in their efforts first to recover and then to grow.

Mary Tozer and Steve McCann.