

The Synod met in the Narthex of the Parish Church of St Gregory , Dawlish on Thursday February 8th 2018 at 7-30 pm. The Rural Dean was in the chair.

The speaker, Revd Canon Dr John Hall. The subject was ‘Interfaith Reflections’.

I want to begin by stating the obvious: We live in a multi-faith and diverse Britain – in a world rich in its diversity of peoples cultures and faiths. It’s a fact – White, Christian, Britain is as make-believe.

How does I-F have anything to do with Kenn Deanery I can almost hear you asking?

I wonder, is there anyone hear who has used the Cof E Presence and Engagement website? If you look at that fabulous free resource you can find just how many people of different faiths live where you do.

Kenn the little village of a 1,011 souls - In Kenn we find there are Buddhists, Jews and Hindus. Yes numbers are small, but they’re present.

website: Cof E census parish info: <http://www.presenceandengagement.org.uk>

So, God did not put us in Kenn Deanery alone - there are people of other faiths. Sometimes as Christians we need to begin by overcoming our own apprehension and fear because sometimes we are afraid to learn about other faiths. We think in meeting with people of other faiths they might weaken our faith.

DHCT report – Jennifer Rowland gave the report stating that the Deanery had raised £2,907.50 and came fourth in the whole of the Diocese. DHCT is pleased with the result of £45,870.59 and thanks to all.

Overseas Officers report – News from Thika. Following a period of prolonged drought the October rains of 2017 began well. In general the farmers did not have a proper harvest as there was insufficient rain. The big dams are going down day by day and electricity will have to be charged for at a higher price. The farmers who had crops had more trouble as they were attacked by an army of “Fall Army Worms”. This is a moth larva and there is no means of controlling it. This is devastating crops right across Africa. Farming God’s Way is taking effect and more and more farmers are creating ponds to conserve water and are also mulching their land. The Harvest Appeal raised “200 by collection at our last Synod meeting. Altogether the appeal raised over £5,000. This is to complete the Thungururu project. The report to date shows great progress in its implementation of Farming God’s Way.

At this point the chairman presented Revd Graham Mayer with a card and a voucher upon his leaving the Deanery and retiring from full time Ministry. He was thanked for all he had done for the Deanery over the long association with best wishes for the future.

The chairman announced that the Revd’s Nick Hawkens, House for Duty at Starcross and Stephen West, Team Vicar at Bishopsteignton will retire in the summer.

STEPPING STONES Lay Chairman report

On Saturday April 21st at St Mary’s Church Hall in Dawlish Warren the Diocesan Youth Work Advisor held a session for members of the Kenn Deanery

It was attended by 17 people – 3 clergy and 14 laity in an informal set-up, sitting in small groups around tables. We heard the experiences of the youth workers and saw some very interesting video clips. There was interaction between us all throughout ! Research into the concerns of present day youth came up with:

Anxiety, particularly about exam grades and failing expectations

Uncertainty about the future of the world

Injustice such as modern slavery

Not fitting in. - Fear of losing their parents.

They want Inclusion – Equality - Unjudgemental space - Leadership relationships

What would out-reach by a church community look like?

We would: value them for themselves – for who they are

Allow them space to be themselves - Listen to their ideas and concerns - offer advice when we can, but refer to someone else when we can’t - Journey with them when they get things wrong - redefine “love” and Pray for them.- Unpack Scripture and embrace change.

After lunch we had a session on Generational Thinking -“The problem with young people today....” was first enunciated by Aristotle ! We discussed the characteristics of the 20 year tranches since 1940.

What can we do to change now?

Change our attitudes

What do we need to start the process?

Educate each other

What needs to stay?

God’s Love

Common Fund Review – This was a Deanery Consultation – held at St Paul’s, Starcross on 24th May 2018. You have all received this report.

The Synod met at the Community Centre in the Bowden Room at Christow on Thursday June 14th 2018 at 7-30 pm. The Lay Chairman was in the chair.

The speaker Marian Carson who was going to speak about “Growth in the Rural Church”. She first told us a bit about herself and her training.

Growing the Rural Church works with rural Mission Communities to develop their resources and, in particular their church buildings, to enable them to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve the people of Devon with joy.

We do this by supporting rural Mission Communities to partner with their local communities and external agencies to find sustainable mission, community, commercial or cultural uses for their church buildings, which benefit the whole community.

When we do this, we ensure that the public spaces offered by our rural church buildings, both for worship and extended use, are sustainably managed and remain open and available. Relationships between our rural churches and their local communities are strengthened, and more people are drawn into the life of our rural Mission Communities.

As we partner with our rural Mission Communities, we aim to do three things:

- To increase capacity for mission
- To develop sustainable uses of church buildings in partnership with local communities
- To share our learning with others so all can benefit from the project’s resources

Our WebPages provide a wealth of information.

Report of the proceedings of the meeting of June 14th had been agreed by the Standing Committee.

Elections to Diocesan Synod – There were no nominations from the House of Clergy.

There were four from the House of Laity – Will Halse (Dawlish), Claire Johns (Starcross), Jane Richards (Whitestone) and Peter Wood (Teignmouth St James). Peter Wood withdrew at a later date. Treasurer’s report. A copy of the Annual Accounts had been circulated. These had been examined by the Independent Examiner. She reported on the current state of the accounts. Current Account £477.59, Premier Interest Account £1300.46

Devon Historic Churches Trust report – by Jennifer Rowland

DHCT Day this year will be held on Sat 8th September. Notices have been sent to all churches in the Deanery asking for a Parish Organiser to be appointed.

Don’t forget that you do not have to ride a bike to raise funds! You could hold a cream tea or a breakfast.

Floral displays or art exhibitions, this could be in conjunction with a local club. Cofton church held a sponsored hymn sing - along and a family fun day in 2017.

Ideford Church members delivered milk to most churches in the Deanery in their beautiful 1930’s Milk delivery car.

At Powderham we open for both Sat and Sun that weekend as it is also, the National Heritage Open Days Scheme and this does bring more visitors to the church to eat your cream teas or help with sponsorship.

Overseas Officers report – By Jane Inwood. The 20th anniversary of the Thika Diocese was celebrated on Sunday June 10th.

After two years of droughts Kenya now has floods. This will be good for the crops but a lot have been washed away with excessive flooding. In Thungururu a new group of farmers have been introduced into the principles of conservation farming. Ten have constructed ditches to arrest surface water. 30 have been trained on vegetable preservation, the importance of tree planting and alternatives to cutting trees for firewood.

Since the start of the year a new team of second generation Umoja facilitators have been trained. It was found possible to conduct bible study with them instead of bringing in trainers from outside the Diocese. This is good news as the support staff did the training.

There has been great success in the Church and Community Mobilisation Process with new churches in the Diocese which was demand driven by the present churches. It is encouraging that word is spreading about the success of this process.

The Synod met at St Paul’s Church, Starcross on Wednesday, 10 October 2018 at 7.30 p.m. The Rural Dean was in the chair.

Co-option and appointment as Secretary of Mr A Wood to the Synod. Proposed by Mr C Fowler and seconded by Mrs Rowland for a term ending on 31 May 2020. Unanimously agreed by both Houses.

An Act of Worship:

This was led by Revd Dallas Ayling and supported by Revd Tim Collins and volunteers from the congregation. The reading was from 2 Philippians followed by “Magnificat in difference voices” and ending with the Abraham Grace.

The Chairman welcomed the Speaker, Gill Ford, who was going to speak about The Church of England Children’s Society. She is the Relationships Manager for The Church of England Children’s Society. The Exeter Diocese overall gave £115k over the last financial year. Kenn Deanery has raised £26 280 over the last 5 years. THANKYOU.

In 2018, Christingle has a birthday! It will be 50 years since TCS held their first Christingle in Lincoln Minster on 7th December 1968. Was introduced into the Church of England from the Moravian church in Germany.

People would bring in a Christingle purse filled with a donation, in return for a Christingle orange.

This year - 2nd December Songs of Praise-TCS and Christingle. 27 Cathedrals signed up-Exeter cathedral - 1st December. Royal Academy of music written us a new Christingle song. 5000 services now take place each year, raising around £1 million.

£1,337 – Christingle last year from The Kenn Deanery. Top Christingle in the Deanery, St Michael the Archangels Church in Teignmouth- £531.98. Thank you

We all believe that No child should feel alone.

Right now in this country there are children who feel scared, unloved and like they simply don’t matter.

One in 20 children will have been abused by the time they are 18

Criminal gangs are targeting children and young people in 80% of our communities. A quarter of all victims of slavery are children some as young as 10. 4 million are living in poverty across the country

We don’t just WANT this to change This HAS to change, because no child should feel alone. When we talk about helping vulnerable children, I wonder what image comes into your mind? Think of the sort of child we might help and the issues they may be facing?

In 2015, The Children’s Society made the brave decision to focus our attentions on the most vulnerable 10-18 year olds. This age group are often forgotten about and unsupported.

We fight to improve life for children. We strengthen the support they get. Pioneer new ways to reach more children who need us. Help them to be seen for who they really are and what they have to offer.

We have main areas of work as follows: Child Sexual & Criminal Exploitation. Those suffering from poor Mental Health and emotional well being. Children in care.

23% living in poverty. 3,877 ‘in need’ in Newton Abbot– a child is in need if they are not likely to achieve the expected level of health or development without the provision of support.

1,197 sexual offences against children in Devon and Cornwall Police areas in 2015/16. Of 54,000 sexual offences recorded across the country, only 16% resulted in a charge, summons, community resolution or caution against the perpetrator. Often, our support workers are the only constant in a child’s life and they work tirelessly to build a trusting relationship with them in order to understand their needs

But equally importantly we reached many more as we also campaign for changes to laws affecting children and young people. FREE SCHOOL MEALS a very successful campaign

The Chairman thanked Ms Ford for the splendid presentation and enlightening talk.

The Report of the Synod meeting held on 14, June 2018 had been agreed by the Standing Committee and had been sent to Synod members.

Treasurer’s report. Mrs Phillips reported on the current state of the accounts. As at 13 September 2018, the Current Account balance was £552.59 and the Premier Interest Account was £1,300.63. The total reserves were £1,853.22.

Devon Historic Churches.

Mrs Rowland reported that this year's Devon Historic Churches Day was held on Saturday, 18 September. In the Kenn Deanery, 15 Churches took part in fundraising for this annual event to help maintain Devon's beautiful places of worship.

The fund raising activities ranged from the traditional sponsored bike ride to sponsored hymn singing, plus the eating of many delicious cream teas. A novel idea from St Michael's in Teignmouth, was to surround the church with a crochet chain twice. Whilst Ruth Cann from Cofton, visited 12 churches in the Kenn Deanery, one of which was St James' Teignmouth. Ruth and her friend were told that they were the first visitors to reach St James'; they had not had any visitors on any of their previous Open Days for DHCT. An amazing show of perseverance by St James', well done and thank you!

The current total for the whole of Devon is £19,803. We do not have a running total for Kenn Deanery as yet. Please do try to gather your sponsorship monies in as soon as possible, preferably before the end of October. 50% of monies raised will be sent back to your church very quickly.

Thank You All for All of your efforts and WELL DONE!!

Overseas Officer's report:

A report from Mrs Inwood had been circulated to Synod members prior to the meeting.

Rev Ed Hobbs, vicar of Cullompton, spent three weeks of his sabbatical in Thika in June/July. He says he had an amazing time. He was hosted in 3 different parishes where Umoja has been running for various lengths of time and heard many stories of transformation. Ed explains 'If you are totally new to the Umoja Process, to give you a very basic introduction, it is a teaching and bible study programme that gets people and churches to ask "what do I have?" rather than "what don't I have?" What resources, what opportunities, has God given me, that I may use to bless myself, my family, my church and my community? And then helps people to use them to the maximum.'

Tripartite Visit to Exeter

In July seven people from Thika and 6 from Cyprus & the Gulf met in Exeter to celebrate and grow our three-way diocesan companion link. The three bishops, together with some of their clergy and lay people, spent a very valuable week learning, worshiping and growing in friendship together. The theme was 'Formation for Ministry and Discipleship' and the work done in the two symposium days was excellent and very valuable with some superb and very moving presentations. The visit to the Resource Church in Plymouth showed the energetic and vibrant side of the church in Exeter Diocese and the visitors shared in worship at both extremes of the Anglican spectrum. Visits included some sight-seeing in beautiful places and the heart-warming experience of seeing the lessons learned from Thika being put into action in Bratton Fleming. All the participants felt the week had been of great benefit in sharing lessons learned from mission and ministry in their very varied cultures and growing the partnership of our dioceses.

Group Visit to Thika

On 28 September a group of 19 from Exeter Diocese will be going to Thika for a ten-day visit. Bishop Nick and his wife are leading the party and representatives from five linked parishes.

After over two years of drought the last rains were excellent - although causing floods in some parts of Kenya - and Thika will be green and beautiful, with farmers happy to have had good crops - sufficient to feed their families. Now they will be anxiously waiting for the next rains - due mid-October - so that they can plant again.

A presentation was made by the Rural Dean to David Garnsworthy, the retiring Honorary Secretary. David first went onto the Standing Committee in 1996 and became Honorary Secretary on 1, November 2000. It was pointed out that Mr Garnsworthy had retired as Honorary Secretary in October 2017 but had been persuaded to stay on until a successor could be found; the Standing Committee was very grateful that he had continued. David was warmly thanked by all present and received a card and gift on behalf of the Synod.

Dr Richards mentioned that Mr Garnsworthy was not the only person finishing at this time. The Revd Wood as, Rural Dean, will stand down at the end of December 2018. He has been the Rural Dean for seven and a half years rather than the expected six years. This was an opportunity to thank him properly. He was presented with a new Service Book and a card on behalf of the Synod.