

Parish of Witney Deanery Synod Report

Meetings were held at Shilton in February and on Zoom in November.

The Deanery Share was paid in full because of individual churches paying their share the previous year and because the Cotswold Wildlife Park had generously paid for 12 churches in the Shill Valley area. The rebate of 3% from 2019 covered any shortfall in 2020.

The Rev'd Margot Hodson and Dr Martin Hodson spoke on *The Christian Response to the Environmental Crisis*. The Deanery Synod passed the motion: *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*.

(This motion was also passed by the Diocesan Synod in March 2020).

Kirsty Morgan reported on six areas of *Common Vision*. These emerged from areas of Mission and Ministry following meetings Bishop Steven held with parishes and deaneries. These areas were:

- Environmental action
- Christian Formation and Discipleship
- Growing new congregations
- Schools, Children and Young people
- Addressing poverty and inequality
- Celebrating and blessing Milton Keynes.

Grants were made available for funding projects such as church planting and work in schools.

A motion was passed asking for guidance, assistance, advice and teaching from the House of Bishops on communion during Covid-19. There was recognition of hurt to some and diversity of theological opinion on the matter.

Helen Meyrick
Deanery Synod Member