

Witney Deanery Synod Report

Meetings were held on 23rd March and 2nd September on Zoom and on 17th November at North Leigh in person and on Zoom.

Coming out of Covid: (March)

The Rev'd Tom Putt from Burford had live streamed services with pre-recorded music but was moving to a mix of congregation in church with live music and streaming for those at home.

The Rev'd Boddham-Whettam from Ducklington returned to services in church but used Zoom to deliver online services with the use of iPads and tablets. The service is also edited for use on Facebook and YouTube. People from church or home do the readings and intercessions.

The Rev'd Canon Toby Wright has had a few services in church but mainly used Zoom. The services have included an organist with a church organ in his own home and his wife to lead the singing of hymns; the words being displayed on screen.

Although members of congregation without suitable technology had been lost to some extent, many others had joined in who were housebound, from care homes, or from distant places.

The Contemplative Toolkit: (September)

The Rev'd Charlie Kerr, School Chaplaincy Advisor for the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, spoke about resources to deal with anxiety, mental health and a lack of spirituality in schools since the pandemic.

Appointments:

The Rev'd Dr Tess Kuin Lawton moved from being Area Dean to a new post as Canon Missioner at Winchester Cathedral. The Rev'd Margaret Dixon was licensed as Area Dean by Bishop Gavin Collins at North Leigh, with The Rev'd Simon Kirby and The Rev'd Janice Collier as Associate Deans.

The Rev'd Miles Welbourne is Curate at Bampton with a special interest in rural work, children's work and technology.

Laverne Williams is working as Youth Leader and Schools Chaplain for 11 schools, based at St Mary's Witney.

The Rev'd Canon Toby Wright was elected to General Synod from the Oxford Diocese.

Finance

The Deanery share has been paid.

Helen Meyrick

Deanery Synod member