

Synod meetings: report for the APCM of 2021 meetings

There were two synod meetings in 2021: 1st September and 3rd November. The September meeting had been postponed three times for COVID reasons. Diane Bellis and myself attended both meetings.

At the first meeting Father Mark outlined the purpose of the Mission Action Plan (MAP) which each parish will complete using four headings:

More Open
More Converted
More Generous
More Engaged. *We have completed ours*

The Diocesan Secretary, Gabrielle Higgins, spoke at length using many diagrams about the diocesan financial shortfall exacerbated as the result of the pandemic. All parishes are asked to aspire to paying 100% of the parish share.

The meeting on the 3rd November was a general discussion about MAP and Father Mark asked parishes to outline how the action of filling it in had concentrated the minds of those doing so. Many parishes spoke of how they had been inspired to think positively about each of the main headings (*as we did*) and it was interesting hear about their various aspirations. Three parishes mentioned that the lack of toilet facilities limited the use of their churches. All parishes spoke about the drop in congregation numbers following the pandemic and the resulting loss of income.

Diane and I always find the synod meetings interesting and it is good to hear about the problems and small triumphs of our fellow deanery members so often echoed in Graffham.