

Diocesan Synod Report to Stroud Deanery Synod 10th October 2018

The Diocesan Synod last met on 20th June and the main topic for discussion was “**Lay Discipleship: Setting God’s People Free**”. Most of you will be aware that this refers to the national church programme of the same name to enable the whole people of God to live out the Good News of Jesus confidently in all of life, Sunday to Saturday. You can find more about this at www.churchofengland.org/SGPF .

It is also one of the themes of the LIFE vision of the diocese, and a priority group has started work on this, running a series of workshops with the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity on whole life discipleship and [sharing stories and resources about discipleship](#). Diocesan Synod heard short presentations from several people involved so far, and also had time for some discussion in twos and threes about some of the issues raised.

The Annual Accounts were also presented and received by Synod. Julie Ridgeway, Diocesan Finance Officer, took the opportunity to express her thanks for all the hard work that goes into raising the finance to support ministry across the diocese. Parish Share contributions did grow a little in 2017, but still fell £112K short of the budget target. The two big areas of pressure are clergy costs and clergy housing. College Green costs (i.e. the central office and staff costs) were only £2k over budget. You can find the accounts on the Diocesan website www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/parish-finance-gift-aid-legal-advice/ .

This was the last Diocesan Synod of the 2015-18 period and Bishop Rachel thanked everyone for their involvement.

NB At present, following the elections for the new Diocesan Synod, this Deanery only has 2 of a possible 8 lay members and 5 of a possible 7 clergy members. Please do think about whether this is something you would like to get involved in. Or if you know someone else who you think would make a good contribution please suggest it to them – they don’t have to be an existing member of Deanery Synod, but would become one if elected to Diocesan Synod. In either case please notify Sally Withers.

Margaret Sheather

1st October 2018