

# **ST. MARY'S, THEYDON BOIS APCM 2021 REPORTS**

## **Deanery Synod**

Deanery Synod meetings moved to Zoom during 2020 due to the pandemic restrictions. There was a focus on the challenges of the pandemic for churches, and the varying responses of the Deanery churches were shared and discussed. We talked about new and different ways of connecting with congregations and the community, on Facebook, YouTube and Zoom, in many cases reaching new and more people. It was agreed that some of these new ways of reaching out could continue post pandemic. The Deanery Treasurer reported that during the year financial giving across the Deanery, although under pressure in these challenging times, in particular with little or no income from events, was steady, and we were thankful to God for the generosity of our congregations. Further to that, the future challenges around the numbers and costs of stipendiary clergy in the Deanery were considered, and it was noted that a Diocesan Stewardship Initiative would be rolled out in 2021.

## **Church Hall**

During the pandemic, very little happened at the Church Hall outside of some permitted use last autumn/winter.

Rev. John recently managed to obtain an Additional Restrictions Grant, which is great news. We will be opening in line with government guidelines shortly.

Aimee, who runs owns the Theydon Bois Coffee van, wishes to move to the Church Hall car park. We are currently discussing this and will advise on next steps.

The security alarm has been upgraded this year to bring the hall a little more up-to-date. There are now fobs to allow easier rental of the facility.

## **Safeguarding**

There is nothing new to report with regard to Safeguarding. The Diocesan team at Chelmsford are giving advice if any problems arise.

As there has been very little close contact during the pandemic, any issues are unlikely to surface. Any DBS paperwork will be dealt with as appropriate.