

EPPING FOREST AND ONGAR DEANERY SYNOD MEETINGS 2022

There were three Deanery Synod meetings in 2022 as follows:

March

Main focus: Reflecting on and Emerging from the Pandemic.

The meeting reflected on the impact of Covid, as it had now been two years since the first lockdown, and we had seen a war break out in Ukraine, and refugees coming to this country. It was noted that our district has the largest number of Ukrainian refugees in Essex. There was some reflection that during the worst period of the pandemic people were turning to God. The past use of technology was seen as a way forward for the church in the future, not as a replacement for physical services, but in addition to, and where normal participation in things became difficult.

September

Main focus: Introduction to the new Parish Share Scene. Under the new scheme some parishes in our district would see a drop in their allocated Parish Share, while others would see an increase. It was noted that the Epping and Ongar Deanery would see a net reduction in share of £10,687 for 2023, while the Harlow Deanery would see an increase in their share in excess of 25%. The Synod approved the allocation of the Epping and Ongar Parish Share for 2023, and the surplus of £10,687 was offered to the Harlow Deanery to help with their 2023 Parish Share.

November

Main focus: Visit by Bishop Guli, Bishop of Chelmsford. Bishop Guli spoke about her background and childhood in Iran, the events of the 1978 revolution, her current appointment and hopes for the future.

It was also noted that there are two hotels in the deanery currently being used to house migrants arriving at Dover.