

Cambridge South Deanery Synod 11 June 2014 Report

The main item on the agenda was a lively presentation by the **Guest Speaker** Diocesan Secretary, Paul Evans.

- He has an interesting background including M16, the Customs Service, serious crime agency and KPMG!
- He spoke about the need for Ely Diocese to develop a strategic plan for the future, using Liverpool as an example of the benefits of this type of approach. For the diocese to grow and thrive there needs to be an increased membership of 4% pa and there needs to be change, particularly in relation to buildings which can hold small parishes back.
- We are Trustees and in this context that means God has given us something and what we give back should be better than what we received. So imagining the future is both theological and about being visible and generous in the community.
- By Advent a plan for the next 10 years will be written. He described too many churches as “angry” with no support and no plan and issued a challenge that some churches may need to become a specialist building e.g just for doing weddings rather than having many small parishes under one priest each with a PCC and just surviving. This could free clergy and reduce burdens overall.
- In response to a question he agreed that Cambridge itself has good things in all parts of the church so there needs to be thought about both the fens and the growth areas and how they can be supported.
- I found the final point helpful - a reminder that the Church of England is an unbroken chain of prayer for hundreds of years.

Diocesan Budget 2015

Roger Lilley reported that this was in preparation and that the deanery is likely to have to provide an extra 2% through the parish share, though most churches will be asked for less than that. This will still be an interim scheme with the new formula, based on clergy costs, still being developed.

Other items

Della Fletcher was thanked for her service of two terms as lay chair of the Deanery and the laity unanimously elected Charlie Bell as the new lay chair

Representatives were elected for the Standing Committee and Pastoral Committee agreed from each partnership within the Deanery. Roger continues on the Standing Committee and as treasurer while Sue is on the Pastoral Committee, which meets when necessary.