



BULLETIN 2

JANUARY 2022

INTRODUCTION

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

A fitting theme for the start of an important new year in our Church, Diocese and Deanery.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 3 February - Deanery 'Living Christ's Story' Introduction. Zoom, 7.30 pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9505769270?pwd=aVc1QnYyS1JJMXpCNUJsbER6STVKdz09>
Meeting ID: 950 576 9270 Passcode: 214845

Tuesday 8 February – First Deanery Eco meeting. Zoom 4, pm
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74033296996?pwd=eSvkS3GGtr5nc8ai-Jj53l6iHtAl W.1>
Meeting ID: 740 3329 6996 Passcode: n0Jidn

Tuesday 15 February – Deanery Synod with Bishop Paul and AD Amanda. Zoom 7.30pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9505769270?pwd=aVc1QnYyS1JJMXpCNUJsbER6STVKdz09>
Meeting ID: 950 576 9270 Passcode: 214845

And do enter the photo competition (see below)

LIVING CHRIST'S STORY

In 2022 all the Deaneries in the Diocese are being asked to consider how we can:

- Become more like Christ;
- Reach people we currently don't;
- Grow churches of missionary disciples;
- Transform our finances and structures.

This is the vision for Living Christ's Story (LCS). The purpose of this bulletin is to introduce the programme for 2022 and answer the question, 'what are we going to do about it?'

THE TASK

Our current model of discipleship is broken. Our Church is getting smaller, getting older, getting poorer, by almost any measure we apply. We could accept this situation and manage the inevitable decline but, in terms of our commission, that sounds like failure. Various initiatives and plans have 'tried harder', but that has not stemmed the overall decline. The only alternative is to do things differently and re-focus our limited human, financial and fabric resources on nurturing our existing disciples and making new ones. LCS is the last chance we have to do that by defining a new model of discipleship and working out how we can put it into practice.

Each Deanery has been asked to undertake that task over the next few months. Bishop Paul and Archdeacon Amanda are attending our next Deanery Synod on 15th February when LCS will be the main subject of discussion, for which we need to be prepared.

Since the approval of an overall plan by General Synod, presentation papers and supporting documentation are being prepared and will be made available at the end of the month. The plan is to use them at an introductory meeting, via zoom, on Thursday 3rd of February, to set out the objective, scope and approach to the programme. We know we will have many different views on the issues and some will be more enthusiastic than others to contemplate the necessary changes. This meeting is the opportunity to understand LCS and to decide what part you wish to play in moving it forward. The meeting is open to all Deanery Synod members and other interested parish representatives.

DEANERY FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Many of you will know that, after fifteen years, Martin Bailey is leaving the role of Deanery Financial Advisor for our Deanery. The good news is that Martin is going on to take up other responsibilities, so the Church is not losing his expertise, just applying it to different needs. We wish Martin every success in his new mission and ministry.

This does, of course, leave us looking for a replacement. Technically it is the Bishop who appoints the DFA, but that will only happen if there is a candidate or two. To say that it is

not an onerous job would be to sell the role very short indeed. It may not require the weekly contributions of a parish treasurer, but it does need financial management and effective networking and communication skills. If you have a possible name in mind, please contact the Deanery office stokesleydeanery@outlook.com or call John directly on 079 900 10368. We can send you a job description and arrange a conversation.

ECO CHURCH – THE GREEN MISSION

Environmental initiatives are taking place across our different communities. As a Church we have a key role to play and it is a fantastic opportunity for us to be ‘out there’ in the community, showing what we can do to care for God’s creation. A Deanery environmental group is being established, led by Geoff Jaques, and the first meeting is now scheduled as follows:

Zoom on Tuesday February 8th at 4 o'clock.

Agenda

1. Share what our parishes / benefices are already doing - please come prepared to say a few words
2. Identify some of the questions people may have
3. Agree how often we wish to meet (and whether any sub-groups are appropriate to explore certain topics)
4. Note any other ideas for the future

All members of our churches across the deanery are welcome, so please do share this with anybody who you think may be interested.

DEANERY SOCIAL MEDIA AND “OUR CHURCH” PHOTO COMPETITION

I’m working on a new website for the Deanery, and we’d love to have some new images to use on it, so we’re launching a competition! The theme is simple – images of ‘our church’ that you are happy to be used on the website. There will be a small prize for the best image, and we’ll try to use all of them somewhere on the website. Please submit your entries (together with your name, parish, and please tell me where in the Deanery it was taken) to the office at stokesleydeanery@outlook.com by the 28th February. The competition is open to anyone, so please feel free to share with your congregation.

Liz Taylorson, Secretary.



CHRIST CHURCH BY NIGHT – NIGEL BOURKE

JOHN DICKINSON (LAY DEAN) - JGDICKINSON@OUTLOOK.COM -079 900 10368