

**ST MARY THE VIRGIN RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN
ANNUAL REPORT FOR SEVENOAKS DEANERY SYNOD 2018-2019**

Sevenoaks Deanery Synod held at St. Katherines, Knockolt 5th June 2018.

The 2 main items that were discussed were:

The 3 Parish Review

The Area Dean explained that the review considers the opportunities for Ministry, Mission and Growth in the parishes of St Mary Riverhead with Dunton Green, St Mary Kippington and St Luke's. This is a prayerful communion process to resolve the level of Ministry across the 3 parishes. Various possible scenarios are being developed for worship and the corresponding provision of this for the 3 churches. Recommendations would then be presented to the Bishop.

Giving by Millennials

People prefer to donate to specific projects and causes so are then more generous. The weekly offering method is now not the best way. Young people use their phones and will send more this way. e.g. £5 on the screen instead of £1 in the collection plate.

Sevenoaks Baptists have moved their services to the afternoon because families are often involved in sport etc in the morning. Experience shows that greater numbers attending service results in a larger contribution of funds.

A system of "friends of the Church" particularly if the building is historic or beautiful will raise more money. It would be good if the maintenance of church buildings came under English Heritage instead of Dioceses. This offer was made many years ago but was turned down by the Church.

Brigadier Dobbie said preaching the way of the Gospel was the way to encourage giving and he proposed that the Giving and Millennials paper should be given out by parishes. A vote on this proposal was approved nemcom by Synod.

Sevenoaks Deanery Synod held at St. Lukes on 18th Oct 2018.

Presentation by the Director of Finance.

The Area Dean introduced Revd Richard Williams who gave a presentation on the new method of calculating parish share. All Deaneries had agreed with the proposal to introduce the Indicative Offers proposal except Sevenoaks which has criticised the new system. He said this proposed method of determining financial contribution to Diocese from Parishes will replace the old parish share. It will give a logical simple method using an equation to give the amount. He has been a Parish priest and knows that raising money is tough. The parish must come first but we must support each other in mission. Supporting the Diocese as well is a challenge. 90% of Diocese's income comes from the parishes.

Diocese's expenditure is currently £11K per year after making many savings. The contribution from parishes is £10.6K which is £400,000 short. This must be addressed. He illustrated a typical case using Indicative Offers for a parish with one full time incumbent £41K for total cost of Ministry plus £9.6K for Diocesan Support plus 50% of net residual income.

The proposed time table. 2nd November 2018 for close of consultation period. 2nd March 2019 for presentation to Diocesan Synod for approval.