



DEANERY NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2023

FAREWELL TO REVD CHRIS



Revd Chris will hold his last services on **Easter Sunday: Halton Quay at 06:45; Gunnislake at 10am; and Calstock at 6pm.** First licenced to the 4 parishes in May 2015, the Tamar Valley Benefice was formed in 2017 when Chris also became Rural Dean.

Chris recalls the fatalism about the “impossible task” of turning 7 spread out churches into a functioning Benefice and how over time the perception of lay ministry grew from “the Rector’s little Helpers” into a ministry of its own. “As we started to act like a single benefice, people saw that it could be done and determined to make it work.”

Chris also saw the potential for Deanery Synod, “I saw it could act as a force for good if it could drive, support and encourage congregations in their growth. I also saw its potential as a hub for communications and discussion between the diocesan synod and PCCs.”

For the future; “I hope to see God’s work unfolding both here and in my new parishes. The Deanery Plan is good and I believe it is God-breathed. That doesn’t mean it is infallible and there must be pragmatism in implementing it. If our faithful and amazing congregations can weather the unsettled times in the short term, the changes will be a blessing in the medium term, and I hope to see that East Wivelshire has pioneered a new way of being the parish church which responds to contemporary culture and needs of the new century.”

Chris will be licenced as the new vicar for Taw and Torridge Estuary Churches (TTEC) Mission Community - Parishes of Fremington, Instow and Westleigh on 26th April and we wish every happiness for Chris, Andrea, Charles and Phoebe in their new home in Fremington.

DEANERY WORKSTREAMS

Pastoral reorganisation

Dates are now out for the Central Benefice transitions meetings and a reminder that Parishes will need to elect 2 Parish Reps for the interviews and visits. The first parsonage has been identified - in St Germans for the Southern Benefice – and there is much ongoing discussion over Benefice names!

Ministry, Worship & Discipleship

There is a proposed meeting in May for Licenced Pastoral Visitors in the Deanery. Please contact Sarah Welpy if you have not received an email about this so that she can update the Deanery list.

Mission and growth

The call for 2 x CAP Debt Coaches has resulted in 2 applications for our area so far which is incredibly good news. Work is ongoing on the role profiles for the Schools Chaplains and the part time Pioneer Minister Role Profile is nearly complete, ready for advert.

Governance

The role profile for the Rural Dean and Strategic Lead is now drafted in preparation for advert hopefully in April. This DIT sub-group will be convened after this year’s APCMs and a **REMINDER to include nominations for Deanery Synod Reps in your APCMs.**

Finance and estates

All Parishes should have received their MMF allocation letters from Finance.

For more information, please visit our website at:
<https://sites.google.com/view/east-wivelshire-deanery/home>