

Swindon Deanery Synod Report for APCM 2020

Swindon Food Collective Claire Sellers and Helen Gerrish gave a presentation on the emergence of Swindon Food Collective approximately a year ago when it took over from Swindon Foodbank and its Sponsor Trussell Trust.

Uganda Update Canon Raymond Adams reminded us that this link is 50 years old. It was started as a result of a friendship between Bishop Oliver Tomkins and Archbishop Erica Sabiti, of Uganda. The link was essentially one of friendship.

Promoting Swindon David Tunley moved to Swindon some years ago and is pleased to live here and proud to work for Network Rail. We have excellent employers National Trust, National Power and is in the top 5 of fastest growing areas. He is sorry that many people have a negative feeling about Swindon. This is a matter of perception. With the electrification of the railway line we are only 55 minutes away from London. We need creative people in the Deanery to help make a video promoting Swindon.

Safe Families for Children Chris Allcock came to talk about Safe Families for Children. They are trying to build a good relationship with Swindon Borough Council and would also like to co-operate with the local churches.

Living Wage David Tunley addressed Deanery Synod on the reasons for bringing his motion to Diocesan Synod. Everyone in employment needs a living wage. Poverty is something to be avoided and society benefits if everyone is appropriately paid.

Uganda update Sally Robertson submitted an update on our link with Uganda and that some £3,000.00 was raised and shared £2,000.00 Luweero Diocese and £1,000.00 Kampala Diocese.

Bishop Viv (by zoom) reminded Deanery Synod that within the Diocese of Bristol there was much pain and steadfastness. At the recent prayer meeting of the Diocesan Synod she had reflected on the book of Job. Job found hope in facing up to reality and responded both with lamentation and arguing with God. Job's "resurrection" was a signal of new life. He had taken a long view over a period of years as had many followers of Christ. There were some who knew what it was like to take up his Cross.

Archdeacon Christopher answered a variety of questions on Covid 19. He advised Deanery Synod members to look again carefully at the latest advice from the Church of England.

Acts of Worship took the form of a Bible Study on the passage of scripture Luke 24 13-25, (Christ reveals himself on the Emmaus Road), and 30 -31 (they recognised Him).

Alf Fortnam –Deanery Synod Member 2017 - 2020

