

AREA DEANS' NOTES SEPTEMBER 2020

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcome Rev'd Edward Bowes-Smith who will be instituted as Team Rector of Great Chesham on Monday 14th Sept.

Also Rev'd Ruth Atkinson, vicar at Penn Street/Holmer Green, with the date of institution to be announced.

At St. James, Gerrards Cross and Fulmer we welcome Rev'd Daf Meirion-Jones as Associate Pastor, Rev'd James Forward and Rev'd Ross Mungavin as curates.

Farwell to Rev'd James Leach, moving to Whitchurch on Thames.

We are thankful for Rev'd Jim King taking on the role as 'Permission of Officiate' clergy in the Deanery. Many thanks to Rev'd Derrick Carr who has undertaken this role over the past few years.

AGMS, CHURCHWARDENS, DEANERY SYNOD REPS, ETC.

COVID-19 has disrupted the normal holding of AGMs, but Bishop Steven has made changes to the rules with these effects - Parishes have until 31 October to hold their AGMs. AGMs can be held physically or online or a mixture of both, but if held online make sure that all participants can do so effectively. The rules as to AGM notices, business and nominations still apply. Churchwardens chosen in 2019 remain in office until their elected successors are sworn in. Deanery Synod representatives for the next 3 years must be elected at this year's parish AGM, but the outgoing reps remain in office until 30 November. Elected lay members of PCCs remain in office until any deferred AGM held this year, and their successors take office from the AGM. PCC Secretaries will have had this detailed guidance from the Diocesan Secretary: <https://mailchi.mp/oxford.anglican.org/pcc-sec-from-diosec-july-2020>

BACK IN CHURCH AND STREAMING

Most parishes have made a cautious return to services in church. Streaming in its various formats continues and probably will continue for a good while to come. Anxiety levels remain high about returning to church buildings among many in the community. We all approach the autumn term and Advent with little idea of what will be allowed. However the Deanery has shown itself remarkably adaptable in the past six months and no doubt will continue to address challenges and opportunities as they arise.

SCHOOLS

The constantly changing flow of information and instructions from the government has been another challenge for staff and governors. However, our church schools are in good heart and have made herculean efforts to welcome all the students back safely, as indeed have the community schools. We pray that the young people may swiftly regain any lost educational ground.

DIOCESAN DEPARTMENT OF MISSION: A REVIEW

Your deanery team has been asked to comment on what is helpful and not helpful about the services provided by Oxford. Synod members with strong opinions are invited to express them to the director Andrew Anderson-Gear at Church House Oxford. Contact details of all department are available at the Oxford Diocesan website.