

Diocesan Synod 28 November 2020.

Breakout Group: ETHELBURGA

1. Are people ready and willing to break down barriers? There is reluctance to engage with anything beyond the life of the parish now, so anything further would be difficult for many to envisage and embrace.
2. Working out which other churches we relate to is significant - it might not necessarily be within our own deanery.
3. There was a wisdom, based on experience in rural parishes, in identifying the things churches can naturally and easily do in common, and what to do separately, without forcing any church into an imposed model.
4. Cultural shifts take time.
5. A 'mixed economy' (keeping the identity of local whilst sharing resources with our neighbours) was considered 'Good News'.
6. An interregnum can actually make a parish more introspective and independent rather than less.
7. What is a focal minister? Who will they be? The good news is that they are to be resident and known in the community. One Area Dean spoke of how such people (actually the wardens) had come to be recognised during a vacancy.
8. Concern was expressed about the expectations that would be placed on clergy with a ministry to several church centres. For some it might be liberating, for others it could be very burdensome.
9. Ecclesiology. The shape of the ministry of the ordained person might be very different in those parishes which were sacramentally focussed - how will such parishes access a ministry which allows them to flourish? They need to be 'honoured' (!)
10. For some clergy a Sunday with lots of celebrations of Holy Communion might be quite onerous/burdensome.