

What is Deanery Synod & What is it for?

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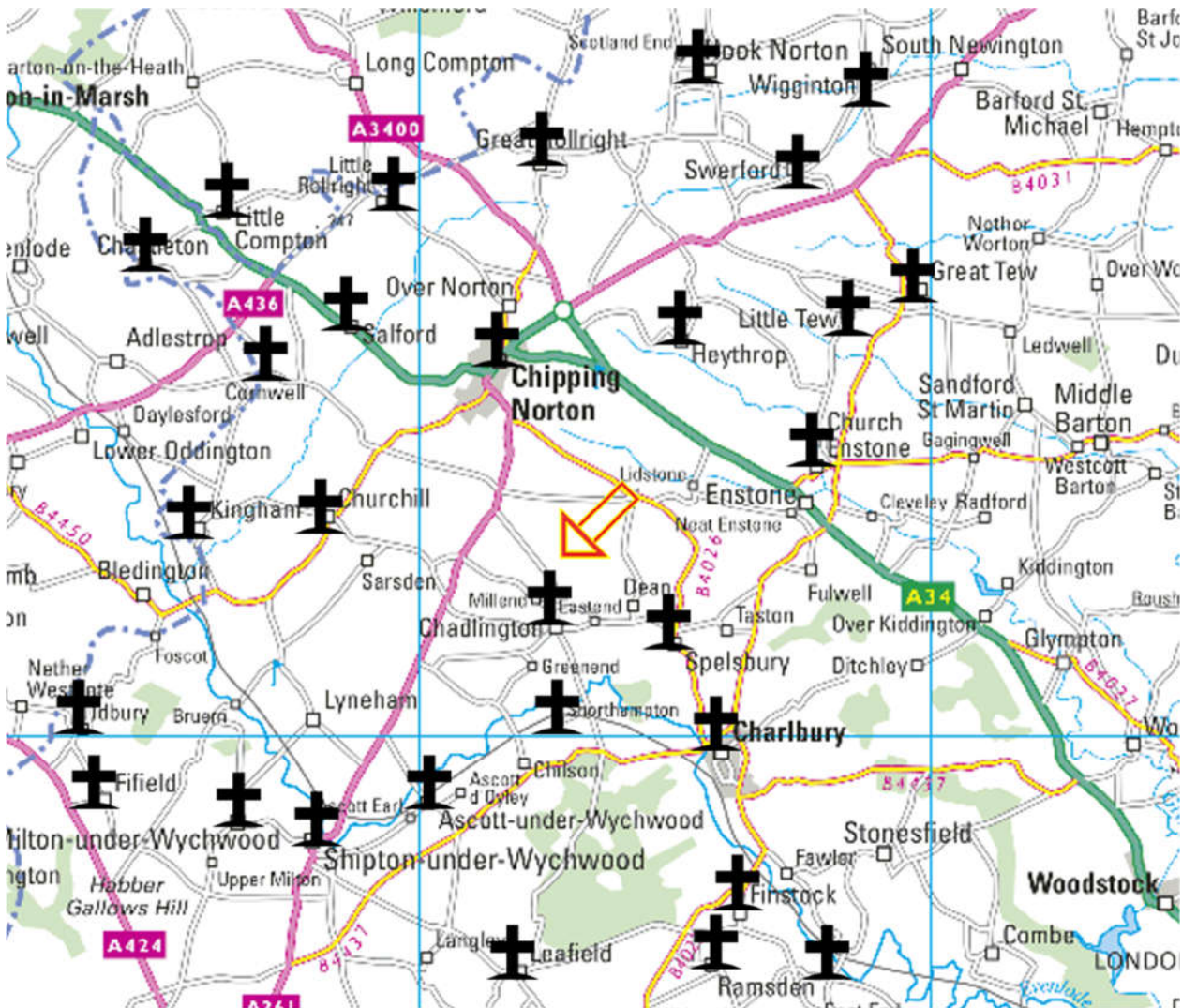
Deanery Synod is a gathering of representatives from the Church of England parishes in a defined area of the country. It meets just a few times each year (3 times for Chipping Norton Deanery).

What is it for?

1. Synodical Structure

The synodical structure is the decision-making structure of the Church of England.

- General Synod makes decisions for the whole Church of England.
- Diocesan Synods make decisions for their diocese (Oxford Diocese covers Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire including Milton Keynes).
- Within the western part of Oxford diocese, Chipping Norton Deanery Synod is gathered from the PCCs of the churches noted on the map below.



Deanery Synod is therefore a place where concerns from individual parishes can be aired and, where appropriate, fed in to be considered by the diocesan synod, which can, in turn, ask for them to be considered at General Synod. Likewise decisions from General and Diocesan Synod are communicated out to Deanery Synod to be passed on to PCCs in every parish.

2. Supporting Mission

Just as people in a single congregation use their different skills together to show God's love in their community, the various churches represented at Deanery Synod have particular strengths and can help support one another. Usually this is by a cross-fertilisation of ideas that have worked well but we hope to build stronger friendships and be able to give greater, more practical, mutual support and see the mission of God grow in all our villages and towns.

3. Sinews & Ligaments (Holding the Body together)

Aside from the structural demands of synod, and the focussed sharing in mission activities, Deanery Synod is also a place of Christian fellowship. We worship God together and support one another. As individuals we hope to have that support primarily in our parishes but as we meet and work together we also look out for one another and demonstrate God's love in the way we meet. Also, any church, parish or benefice may need the support of the rest of the deanery from time to time and it is right that we make provision for that as we can.

Key Roles

The Area Dean - currently David Salter

The Area Dean and Lay Chair are co-chairs of Deanery Synod & Standing Committee. They have other particular responsibilities, in both supporting the regular work of the deanery and in specific circumstances e.g. when there's a vacancy. The Area Dean arranges meetings between the deanery clergy (Chapter). (01608) 658852 or david.w.salter@btinternet.com

The Lay Chair – currently Catherine Hitchens

The Lay Chair convenes and chairs any meetings of the Deanery House of Laity, supports parishes through times of vacancy, attends PCC re-Vacancy meetings, plays an active role during interview days and represents the laity at Institutions and Licensings. The Lay Chair is an ear and a voice for the parishes on other Bodies and he or she informs the Bishop and Archdeacon of any legal or Pastoral concerns arising from the parishes. The Lay Chair reports back on meetings with Bishops, Archdeacons and other Diocesan Officials.

(01993) 831881 or catherine.lordlandry@gmail.com

The Deanery Treasurer – currently Brian Ford

Parish Share is the term used for the money paid by each parish towards the cost of the clergy and the costs of the diocesan and national church staff. In the Oxford Diocese the amount of money requested from each deanery is agreed by Diocesan Synod but they ask each deanery to decide how it is distributed between its benefices. The Deanery Treasurer has a key role in helping in the decision-making process, liaising with Diocesan Finance and supporting parish treasurers in their work. He or she also manages the Deanery accounts.

(01608) 811400 or brianford2809@gmail.com

The Deanery Synod Clerk & The Deanery Administrator – currently Jo Paton and Sam Shaw

The Deanery Synod Clerk assists the Area Dean and Lay Chair in making the agenda for Deanery Synod and records the minutes of the meetings. parishoffice@charlburychurch.uk

Jo will be standing down as Clerk and will be replaced by Sam Shaw from the next meeting. We thank Jo for all her hard work.

The Deanery Administrator helps the Area Dean and Lay Chair with all other aspects of administration of the deanery. (01608) 652888 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in term time or

kinghamsam46@gmail.com