

Deanery “Conversation” - 2022

The ‘Greater Dudley’ round of the Deanery Conversations - 2022 - took place on 29th March at Brierley Hill Civic Hall. Some 9 clergy-persons and 54+ representatives were present.

Opening prayers/statements included_

- “We believe that Jesus .. was a slave”
- We join to .. make Disciples
- There will be a “Ministry Share” (*not Parish Share*) .. which will bring about ‘Renewal’
- We can now enjoy “Streamlined” meetings

John Preston spoke on “How is life for me, in my church ?”

(during which, without permission to be videoed/filmed being sought, a ‘Dracula-like figure’ with a video-camera circulated the floor, perhaps looking for prey?)

What changes could be made with would ‘stimulate’ and increase ‘penetration’ ?

A short film of various examples of such activities was screened_

- A ‘Forest Church’ during lock-down_ services held in places of natural beauty_ on a farm_ at different times of day_ in a pub_ in a café_ in the churchyard (on a sunny day)_ a service of silent thought & Taize
- Discipleship – comes through a ‘me-to-one relationship with God’

We were introduced to the work of _

- the ‘Gornal & Sedgeley Bereavement Hub’
- the establishment of the Warndon Church
- the Cradeley Community Link café

Question: Since ‘we can only give from what we’ve got’ .. what do we have ?’

Answer: “God’s already put what you need in your church !”

Q: In ‘Grouped’ churches, should each church ‘specialise’ ?

A: ?

Q: Society has changed .. should we ?

A: ?

We can now all apply to have ‘resources’ released to us .. funds will be available in 5/6 months .. to “.. take forward Diocesan initiatives”.

For this project, there should be planned monthly meetings involving clergy and (small) working parties_ each church to plan (a 5-year plan) towards its chosen initiative.

This is the “time to invest Diocesan Resources in our Parishes” .. *see cofe worcester website*.

We have all been transformed by our experiences of the last two years.

The future is not the past .. there are “brave decisions” to be taken.

The meeting concluded with time for reflection.

Observations:

1. *Far better organised / presented than earlier ‘Conversations’ .. they’re learning*
2. *Does NO_ ONE teach clergy persons microphone technique ?*
3. *The pre-meeting period was ‘enlived’ by the performance of a recording of Pachelbel’s ‘Canon’ .. on a loop .. for 20+ minutes*
4. *The Civic Hall, conveniently located for transport links, with an adjacent (free) car park (with an enhanced level of security provided by the main Police Station on-site) is, nevertheless, a vast auditorium of which we used a fraction of the ground-floor space. Not necessarily the best selection of venues.*