

The **Greater Dudley Deanery Synod** met on two occasions during last year, on _

Tuesday 21st March at St. Peter, Lapal

a 'modern' building of a domestic-scale serving the Manor estate on the border of Halesowen and Quinton and

Wednesday 11th October at 'Top Church', High Street, Dudley

which describes itself as "a thriving Anglican Church at the heart of this community" and is the pre-cursor of the 'development and resource centres' with which the Diocese plan to rejuvenate church-attendance in the years ahead. (See <https://topchurch.co.uk/>)

The main features of the March meeting were _

- the integration of youth and children's work of and in the church with what is happening in the schools within parishes - be they church schools or state schools; staffed by Christian worshippers or teachers of other faiths or none; serving pupils of a wide range of ethnicities, religions and worshipping styles
- a report-back on Diocesan and National Synod meetings and the topics discussed and the votes and decisions taken.

Those of the October meeting centred on _

- the election of the Lay-Chair (John Nicholson re-elected)
- discussion of and adoption of the Diocesan Priorities in work with children and families (*Youth work will be covered in subsequent meetings*)
- revealing of the extensive renovations and refurbishment of this Victorian edifice and its adaptation to support 'vibrant' contemporary worship styles.

I gave written and verbal reports to the PCC meetings which followed these Synods - which I attended in company with Rev. Kim Topham - posting them on the church website, together with photos highlighting points which arose.

The next Synod is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13th March and will be led by the new Area Dean Rev. Andrew Sillis of St. Thomas, Stourbridge (who succeeds David Hoskin) and the Sub-deans Lyn Rowson and Kim Topham together with John Nicholson (Lay-Chair) - Michael Bishop (Treasurer) & Melissa Rose (Sec.)

Harry Grove *St. Leonard's Representative*