

## Deanery Synod Report 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Keith Williams is lay chair.

In June 2018 Mark Dunwody, (senior Fresh Development Officer for Bedford Archdeanery) addressed the meeting on Reaching New People In New Ways which seeks to build on Living God's Love. There are many success via a wide variety of Fresh Expressions and the aim is to build on those.

September Dean Pusey, the Diocesan Youth Officer spoke to us of ways to encourage younger people into the church community. Suggestions include bringing children together in a series of gatherings across the deanery, funding a deanery worker and resource van. Dean and Mark are available to offer help and advice.

In November Sidney and Judy Miller spoke of the work of The Gideons. Getting bibles into hotels is becoming increasingly difficult and they now try to get them into schools and universities. But many including Sharnbrook school and Bedfordshire University will not allow this.

Keith Williams recapped the progress made in reaching out to young people. Monica Bergh, a former area youth worker with the Methodist Church had offered her services, the plan is to run a monthly event through 2019 for youngsters across the deanery.

In February guest speaker rev Sarah Burrow spoke very effectively about Compassion, compassion for others and, perhaps, especially for ourselves.

Keith reported that Monica Bergh has been appointed and the immediate aim is to make a space for young people to meet together, monthly, in different places across the deanery. It is unknown how this will develop but the aim is to start conversations, listen, give young people an opportunity to do things together and allow them to discover Jesus and that they need Him.

The End