

Pontesbury Deanery

A note from the Bishop and Archdeacon:

Pontesbury Deanery is distinctive in that it has for some years been constituted as a Group Ministry. This has allowed the clergy, while each having a benefice identity, the added ability to work across those boundaries for the good of the whole deanery. In practice this has not been utilised to anything like its full potential. It is this that the deanery is now seeking to address.

At the local level the deanery is fully committed to the diocesan priorities:

1. Growing Christian disciples of all ages and backgrounds – spiritually and numerically.
2. Contributing to the common good – changing lives and communities.
3. Reimagining, developing, and sharing ministry for mission in the 21st century

There is a growing determination to ensure that...what is better done together is not done individually. Further, there is a commitment to allow each of the clergy and licensed ministers to work to their strengths for the good of the whole.

In the last three years Pontesbury has employed a families worker, Mr Mark Hackney. He is developing many new contacts and working with families, dads and Messy Church. More recently the Deanery has begun to financially support and avail themselves of some of Mark's time and expertise. Mark is linked into the Diocesan Missional Learning Community and he links into the Diocese's Intergenerational Mission initiative. Mrs Lizzie Hackney is the Diocesan coordinator for Intergenerational Missioners, a Church Commissioners' funded project to grow new disciples and new ecclesial communities.

The Deanery faces challenges both in sustaining itself financially and in reaching a younger generation. However, there is also vision and energy to pray and see God do new things. The Deanery is in the unusual and fortunate position of being able to advertise two posts together as part of moving forward into more collaborative ministry. It is our desire that those appointed will come with a commitment to enable growth and work collaboratively, both respecting boundaries while taking every opportunity to work across them for the common good. Please read on and prayerfully consider if this is for you.

I am delighted to commend the posts to your consideration and prayer.

+Alistair

Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow