

APCM 5th May 2024
Supplementary Reports

Electoral Roll Report 2024.

My apologies for not presenting the report in person.

The electoral roll now stands at 131, which is 10 fewer than last year.

5 people have died.

5 people have moved away from the Parish, or are now worshipping in another church.

There have been no new requests to join the Electoral Roll this year

Jo Spray

Fabric Report - Church and Church Hall

Our buildings are there to provide safe and usable environments for the church family and the wider community and visitors. The wardens, PCC and the members of the fabric committee work to ensure the upkeep of the buildings through planned and budgeted routine maintenance, emergency repairs when required, the development of future projects for the renovation and improvement of the facilities provided and the ongoing performance of inspections to ensure the health and safety of all users.

This work continued through 2023 and at the end of the year there were no major issues outstanding relating to the church or church hall buildings.

There is one major project underway which is the proposed reordering of the West End of the church. It is planned to replace the current sound booth, provide a second toilet and modernise and upgrade the kitchen facilities. The need for this work was reinforced in July when we had a major plumbing failure of the pipework in the wall between the kitchen and robing room. This is the second such failure in the past two years and the cause has been identified as 'copper cancer' which affects copper piping of a certain age. The only option is to replace all of the plumbing in the west end of the church with an alternative type of piping, and to surface mount the replacement piping rather than conceal it within the walls. This project will continue into next year.

Also during the year, a defibrillator was purchased and mounted on the outer wall of the North Porch which can be used by both church visitors and members of the general public.

The latest quinquennial reports covering the church and church hall are both dated 2021 so further inspections are not due until 2026

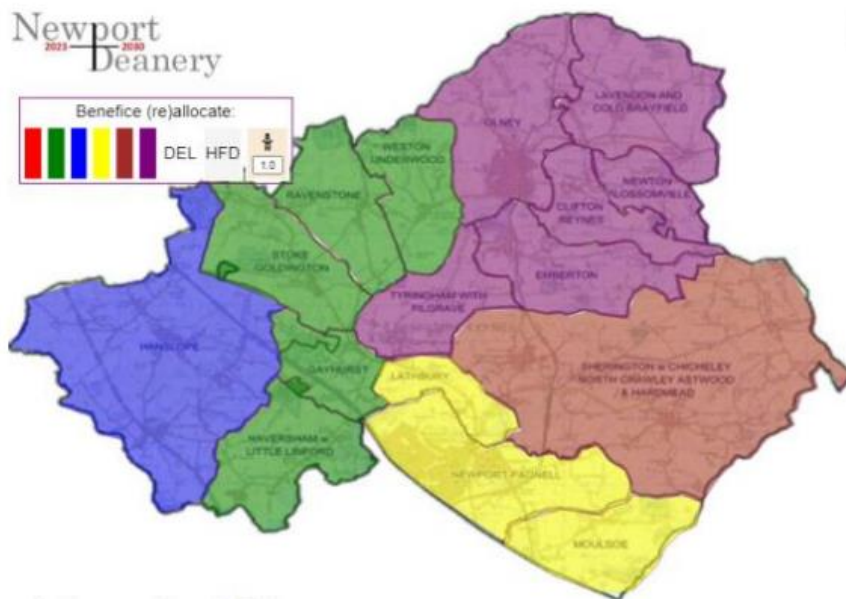
Planned projects for 2024 and beyond are as follows:

- West end reordering – continuation and completion
- Renovation and regilding of the clock face
- Renovation of the outer North Doors
- Agree a way forward for the storage issues and the future of 'the shed'
- Develop a solution for the future of the sensory garden at the rear of the church hall
- Renovation of the stonework around the West Doors
- Replacement of the lights in the choir stalls

David Phillipson

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod has for the past year been working on plans for reorganisation of the deanery to reflect the current level of parish share payments. This would mean reducing from 5.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) clergy to 5.0 FTE. Various models were put to consultation, including Minster and Double Minster models, but the final decision has now been taken to split the deanery into 5 benefices. Olney will be combined with the Lavendon Group (Lavendon, Cold Brayfield, Newton Blossomville and Clifton Reynes) plus Emberton, and Tyringham and Filgrave. The Benefices of Newport, SCAN and Hanslope remain essentially the same and a new Benefice will combine GATE (Weston Underwood, Ravenstone, Stoke Goldington and Gayhurst) with Haversham and Little Linford.



Following the early retirement of the Rector of Olney and the prospective retirement of the Rector of Lavendon sometime between October 2024 and October 2025 the reorganisation process has been accelerated. Staffing of the new Olney plus Benefice is not clear, but there will be a full time incumbent in Olney and a part-time incumbent in the Lavendon rectory.

The deanery has also considered revising the formula for apportioning Parish Share. At present this is simply apportioned to benefices based on FTE, so we effectively pay for our own clergy. The deanery does receive a rural discount due to the rural nature of many of its parishes, but this is currently shared with those parishes defined as urban (Newport, Olney and Hanslope). One proposal would be to only allocate the rural discount to the rural parishes as defined by the diocese, reducing their share and increasing those of the larger parishes. There have also been discussions of using other criteria than number of FTE to allocate share, based on need and ability to pay. The effect of the reallocation of rural discount in 2024 would increase Olney's share from £61,721 to £76,694, although this would be phased over three years. A decision has not been taken for 2014 and the current formula will apply this year, but may still change in future years. In the proposed combined benefice the changes have little overall effect as the rural parish share decreases as Olney increases.

The Area dean has also run training courses for Common Worship Leaders, completed by Malcolm Jones from our parish. Please contact the area dean if you would like to be trained. Olney also hosted a very successful deanery Evensong in September, led by the area dean.

Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a three year term from 2023 to 2026. Current representatives of the laity are Malcolm Jones, Andrew Geary and Kate Nicholas. Kate also serves on Diocesan Synod and Malcolm on the Deanery Pastoral Standing Committee.