

Journey as a Lay Dean

Katherine Cannell, Lay Dean

My journey in the deanery began when I became a deanery representative for my church many, many, years , I was always interested in church beyond my own parish and this was a good opportunity, enabling one to meet and share with other people from the different parishes.

When the need arose for a deanery secretary I took it on ; after five years I took a break of around 18months before being asked to stand for the then Lay Chair, as it was.

This was some 11 plus years ago. It really was what you wanted to make of the job with little guidelines. It did seem somewhat daunting initially but meeting u with others in the role soon put one at ease.

Visiting churches when possible to join them for worship has always been one my aims, but confess not easily achieved with commitments in one’s own church.

Lay Dean became our title some years later when there was the emphasis on clergy and laity working together The job has developed over the time particularly in recent years with more emphasis on the work at deanery level through the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group, developing Mission plans for the deanery and most recently at the deployment requirements, planning the Deanery Synod meetings.

I have worked closely with 2 Area Deans and it is key to be able to do this and share the work as appropriate. I have served on Bishops Council and continue to be a deanery representative on Diocesan synod.

I have had the privilege of attending the installation of 2 Bishops of Bath and Wells , involved in the appointments of new incumbents and their licensing services, always a joy after, in some cases, long interregnums.

It is a rewarding job but obviously like any has its moments.

I have met new people and made some lasting friendships during this time.

I am really grateful for the support and opportunity over the past years that the role has given me to use the gifts God has given me.