

# Annual Deanery Synod Report: 2024

All Saints with Holy Trinity is situated within the Akeley East Deanery and returns three lay representatives. For the last period, the representatives were Deb Green, Kath Lewis, and James Badger. Kath Lewis resigned in August when she moved to train as a priest. All Clergy licensed to the deanery also sit within the Synod.

Deanery Synod has two roles; a Church governance role, and a community building function. For church governance, the main role is to act as the electorates for Diocesan Synod and General Synod but there are other roles to perform as required.

By bringing together members of each community from across the local area, the Synod fosters a community of practice and relationships between the constituent churches. Meetings provide space to catch up on what each church is getting up to and offer prayer and support for any challenges they are facing. We also celebrate and share successes and ideas.

Deanery Synod met three times in the period. Meetings start with a period of worship; we then receive a presentation on a topic followed by discussion and questions. The meetings in the last period covered: Diocesan Finances, University Chaplaincy, and Intergenerational Communities.

Our first meeting welcomed Simon Wilson, the Diocesan Finance Director, for a useful presentation on where the Diocese gets its money, how it spends it, and an update on how the Diocese plans to close its budget deficit. Discussion following the presentation noted the difficulty of cuts and the loss of stipendiary ministry provision and the wider Diocesan Strategy.

The second meeting welcomed Elizabeth York, Loughborough University Lead Chaplain, to present on the University chaplaincy. A fascinating presentation, Elizabeth shared reflections and a brief history of chaplaincy in general and then the opportunities, challenges, and plans for the multi-faith chaplaincy at Loughborough University.

In our final meeting of 2024, Matt Long, the Diocesan Youth Engagement & Intergenerational Communities Enabler, came to share. He shared how the Bishop's Children and Youth Council is now a large distributed group rather than a small group of a handful of young people. He shared how he uses a termly listening focus and reflections to draw out responses from hundreds of children in churches, church schools and beyond. It was really exciting to see how Matt is providing useful resources to schools while also engaging young people in exploring how faith relates to aspects of life. You can find out more and see some of the reports and responses here:

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc/>

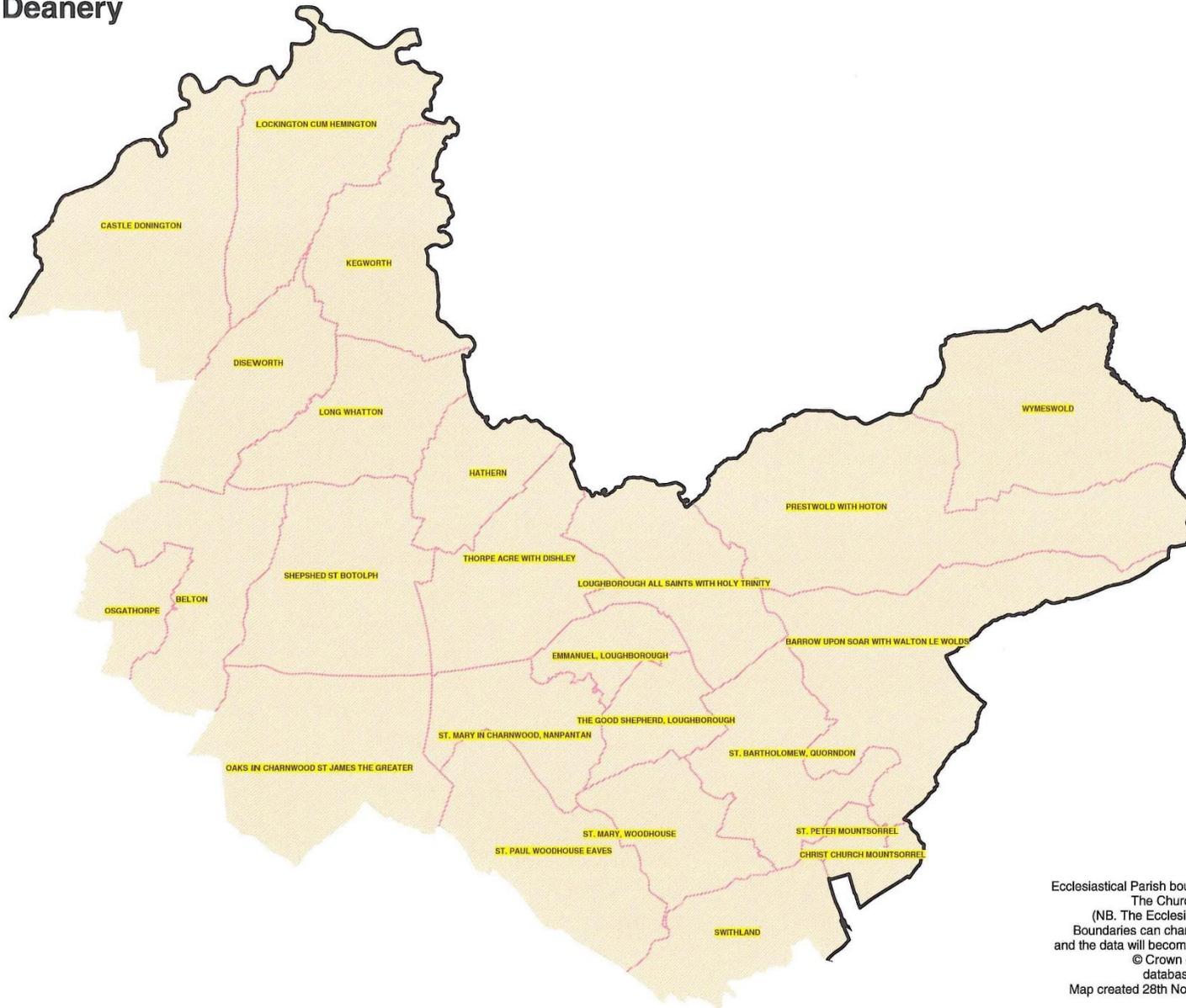
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James Badger and Deb Green

January 2025

For reference, the Deanery map can be found below.

## Akeley East Deanery



Ecclesiastical Parish boundaries from  
The Church of England  
(NB. The Ecclesiastical Parish  
Boundaries can change over time  
and the data will become out of date)  
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