

## REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING, APRIL 2017

### TANDRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD

The main development over the past year in the deanery synod has been the merger of the Caterham and Godstone deaneries to form the Tandridge deanery, whose boundary is almost identical to that of Tandridge District Council, and thus to create a new and larger synod. The new Deanery comprises 26 parishes, running from Warlingham to the Surrey/Sussex border. The Area Dean is the Rev. Kathryn Percival, Vicar of Lingfield, and the Assistant Area Dean Michelle Edmonds, Team Rector of Warlingham, Chelsham and Farleigh. The synod's lay members are drawn from each parish in proportion to the electoral roll: Woldingham has three (Rita Briscoe, Maureen Westmarland and Christopher Roberts).

The main reason for the merger, which has been approved by all the parishes involved, was that a larger unit should be more effective in developing opportunities for Ministry and Mission. There should be benefits from sharing the experience of different communities, some more urban and some more rural, in mission, in worship, in training and in working together.

The new synod has so far met twice, in October 2016 for an inaugural service and an address from Bishop Jonathan on the role of deaneries, and in February 2017 for an open-ended discussion of what the priorities of the new synod should be. The early signs are that the new body will be more effective, and have a clearer sense of purpose, than its predecessor.

Christopher Roberts

March 2017