

Pastoral Committee Report.

Pastoral committee continues to help support the people of the churches of the South Western Synod as we all wrestle with the changes which have been amplified and accelerated by the Covid pandemic.

We have seen great instances of churches adopting new ideas such as outdoor services, streaming and zoom, but we are aware too that this has been a time of great pain and difficulty for some.

Church Closures

The following churches have closed since the last Synod:

- North Tawton
- Newquay
- Estover, Plymouth has become an Anglican church offering an ecumenical welcome, rather than a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Ministers' movements

Revd Colin Phipps has retired from Sherwell & Cornerstone, Torpoint and we wish Colin & Sally well as they settle into their new house in Plymouth.

Revd Phil Nevard has been called to Sawston, Whittlesford & Castle Camps in Eastern Synod.

Revd Lythan Nevard has been called to the role of Eastern Synod Moderator.

Revd Susan Durber has ended her ministry at Taunton URC but remains Moderator of Faith and Order for the World Council of Churches.

Revd Boh Yun Kim has been appointed General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Korean from 1st October 2021 and has left the Bristol Korean Church.

Revd Stephen Newell has been appointed Bristol Transition Minister (half time) from 1st November 2021 and will leave Zion, Frampton Cotterell at the end of March 2022.

Scoping of Ministers

Pastoral committee is continuing to discuss with ministers and churches how we can keep within the limit of the number of ministers which constitute a fair share for the SW Synod. The movements of ministers listed above has eased the pressure somewhat and we are grateful for those who are exploring in ways which are imaginative and flexible.

Somerset Synod Pastoral Advisor

Revd Jim Thorneycroft has been appointed SPA for Somerset in addition to his work with Devon South & East.

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