

Minutes of the Deanery Synod held at St John's Southall

on Tuesday 3 November 2016

Welcome & Prayer Revd Anna Poulson welcomed everyone to St John's Church, with a multi-ethnic congregation located in a very diverse community. At the last census only 3% declared they had no religion, which must mean 97% believe there is a God! Those of other faiths come into contact with the church through Messy Church, prayer requests and English classes, for which more teachers are needed, such is the demand. St John's Hindi choir led us in worship with two songs.

Revd Steve Newbold, Area Dean, gave a vote of thanks for the splendid spread of food.

Election of a Director to the board of the Twyford CofE Academies Trust

There was one nomination, Andrew Bickley, who outlined his experience and his eagerness to improve the life chances of children especially those disadvantaged. He was nominated by Revd Pete McKenzie and seconded by Revd Caz Dunk, all in agreement

General Synod meeting

Enid Barron gave some feedback on her experience of General Synod, which she had found interesting and more exciting than she had imagined. Renewal and reform had been the theme with topics such as church buildings, laws, migration, leaving Europe, benefit cuts, organ donations and human sexuality. It had been stressed that it was important to support the churches in the Diocese in Europe amid the changes.

Capital Vision 2020

We welcomed Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, Bishop of Willesden, to our meeting. The video was shown after which Bishop Pete gave an inspiring talk, encouraging us to look outward in mission.

To communicate well through twitter, facebook and up to date websites – conveying the Gospel to others, challenging them. As ambassadors for Christ how are we doing all the other days of the week? Are we living our 'Faith on the Frontline? Clergy have been invested in, through the conference, study, discussion and spiritual feeding. People can be called to ordination, through preaching on God's calling. Women and BAME to be encouraged.

Compassionate – How best to serve our community? Maybe get involved with Food Banks, Street Pastors. Individual churches can open their buildings, transform old buildings with modernised lighting and seating
Education – we have opened William Perkin and soon a further school 'North Ealing' – we want children to find faith. Messy Church – bridge between own way of living and church. Churches may be able to work together to resource this project. Church planting – Ealing is doing well, additional services and new worshipping communities engaging locally as in Gurnell Grove our newest venture. We can engage with people through sport and the arts.

Discussion followed in small groups – a vision for Ealing – how can we churches and deanery become involved?

A few questions arose

Buildings we need to transform our buildings to grow; it is not the policy of the Diocese of London to close churches, but find a new use for. Speak to the Archdeacon about transforming. Concrete churches here are presenting problems

Decline in attendance older people are moving out west. So more to do to ensure growth. Funeral directors often arrange civil or humanist funerals so less engagement with parishioners

Church in 2021 There will be a new Bishop of London (should be in post Easter 2018). Hope for continuity, committed to mission, team vibrant, keeping up with changes in our city, an exciting future.

Prayer followed. Thanks expressed to Bishop Pete

Plan for next year – Team of people lay/clergy: MAP and help shape future of our churches

Future Meetings

Tuesday 31st January 2017 7.30pm at St Nicholas Perivale

The Rt Revd Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Islington will lead us in a Deanery Mapping Exercise

Thursday 11 May 2017 Archdeacon Annual Visitation at St Stephen's Ealing