

Minutes of the Deanery Synod held at All Saints, Ealing Common on Thursday 13 February 2020

Welcome and worship

Revd Steve Newbold, Area Dean, welcomed everyone to All Saints; thanks were expressed for the hospitality today. Revd Rachel Marszalek, Vicar of All Saints, gave a short introduction. The church was built 115 years ago to commemorate the life of Spencer Perceval, the only Prime Minister to have been assassinated. He was an evangelical Christian, a man of integrity and faith committed to his marriage and family, and who worked alongside William Wilberforce to bring an end to slavery.

Today, the church has adapted to welcome all ages. A few rows of pews at the front have been removed to make space for a creche area, the children enjoying pitta bread and grapes at communion time. The altar table is brought down to the floor in front of the congregation.

Rachel led a time of sung worship and prayer.

Deanery Synod and General Synod elections

Julian Duffus, Lay Chair, commented that this year we have elections both for Deanery Synod Members and then for General Synod. As the newly elected Deanery Synod members are the electorate for the General Synod Julia stressed the importance of notifying the Diocese promptly of the outcome of Deanery Synod member elections. This is particularly important given the timeframe for APCMs having been lengthened, until the end of May. From 2020 it is possible to conduct General Synod elections via email

Deanery Mission Team

Revd Christopher Ramsay explained when the Archdeacon Triennial Visitation to a parish occurs, a Deanery Mission team also visit, listening to the PCC and asking questions. The Team are looking for new members, clergy and lay, across the various traditions to join the team. If anyone is interested, they should speak to Christopher or Steve Newbold asap.

Ealing Deanery Plan

Outline

Revd Steve Newbold began by explaining the beginning of a Deanery Plan commenced in January 2017 when Bishop Ric Thorpe helped Ealing Synod plot our parishes and activities on a deanery map. Since then, there had been much prayer and discussion with the clergy, developing ideas including a conference with the Bishop last October. The Bishop gave criteria to guide planning, including that no extra money is available, but it was not a cost-cutting exercise, but to ensure the best use of resources is made. We are encouraged to be creative!

Bishop Pete put together the Willesden Plan of the 4 deaneries, which was shared with Area Council. Bishop Sarah is also producing a Diocesan Plan to replace Capital Vision 2020.

The Deanery Plan continues emerging, developing and re-shaping as we add our contribution.

There are 3 areas: gaps – things to start doing; stop doing; and improve

Steve highlighted points on the plan in all 3 areas.

Clergy are named to take forward each item but others can join the team. Comments were invited as to maybe what shouldn't be on the plan or what could be added.

Initial reaction

Wonderful plan, work in progress.

Everyone can be involved.

Our chance to make a difference in our Deanery.

We should include in our Annual Reports.

What is an Eco Church - one where the members make environmental changes to the way they live.

Assess what we are doing, also to look at what to stop too.

Lot of focus on youth, but perhaps nothing for older population.

Specifics

1.1 Example from Hillingdon Deanery – a church site has been sold and used to invest in one church. So stopping things is also important – can we do more here?

1.2 & 1.4 New builds - how to meet people at the earliest opportunity, to tell them of community activities.

Fresh expressions – explore what we can do for these new residents.

Communication to new Christians as to how church works – lots of members still don't know. Try to get leaders involved, there is a need to communicate, advertise.

Also concentrate on how welcoming we are – people like to be welcomed

Ambassadors – huge amount of rented property at Greenford Quay, transitory population. How do we reach them? See 'Everyday Faith' - C of E discipleship campaign

1.7 Explore the future of ministry & mission in West Twyford – the local Vicar is to lead a discussion on the future.

1.9 Youth work, schools – Karen Greenidge-Silcott is the Youth Advocate. Can she be included or invited onto the team?

Youth provision – West Ealing for example. Should we have provision all in one church?

Youth – prayer, how we reach out to people. Social media – we go to them, not them come to us.

St Mellitus College - 28 February evening event to learn about social media

2.3 Parish boundaries – clergy probably think of their boundaries, but there could be more overlap of parishes, for leafletting for example. Steve said 90% of clergy do work across boundaries but legalities sometimes need to be worked through.

2.5 Resources, printing etc. happening in every parish but an administrator could be shared between some smaller churches, which could free up monies for use elsewhere.

4.2 Eco church – every church should be encouraged, not just St Mary Norwood Green but the wider church. It's about spirituality, nature, how we are living our lifestyle.

Nothing specific on SSMS – maybe work in secular world; live out our faith in the world.

Rachel M - lay ministry important that we work as a team. There is information about LLMs on the Diocesan website. We can also be asking the Bishop to commission people.

'Everyday Faith' as mentioned above; 'Reframe' – brilliant course, empowering – free. Held at All Saints.

Christopher Ramsay – stop thinking 'I want my church to flourish' but think of flourishing of others.

A copy of the Deanery Plan will be on the Deanery website – use for PCC discussion.

Adam Dobrzynski asked if we can share information or make links to parish websites on our Deanery website.

This is the last meeting of the triennium, members were thanked for their contribution and encouraged to stand for reelection and/or seek others to stand.

Next Meetings

Wednesday 10 June Archdeacon's Visitation – combined Deanery celebration, St Mary's Hanwell.

Wednesday 8 July Mission Fund & Officer elections, St John's West Ealing

Reminder to think now of bids for the Mission Fund (submissions by 30th April), forms on Deanery website.

The meeting ended with prayer.