

**Minutes of the Deanery Synod held via Zoom video conference
on Wednesday 24 March 2021**

Attendance 61 participants

Welcome & Prayer

Revd. Steve Newbold, Area Dean, welcomed everyone to this first meeting of the Synod triennium (i.e. after election of lay Deanery Synod reps) and Annual General Meeting and opened in prayer.

Business Items

Thank you to the former Lay Chair

Revd. Steve Newbold said a huge thank you to the outgoing lay chair Julian Duffus (St Peter's Acton Green) who started attending Deanery Synod in 1994 and has been lay chair since 2006. Julian Duffus has had to step down because his church St Peter's Acton Green has been relocated to the Kensington Area (and Hounslow Deanery) as part of the Ealing Deanery Plan. Julian spoke stating how much he had enjoyed his time as part of the Synod. Revd. Steve Newbold informed the Synod that the Standing Committee had presented Julian with a gift thanking him for his service over many years.

Election of Deanery Synod Officers and Standing Committee members

Lay Chair – Jackie Ashmenall (Christ the Saviour Ealing)

– proposed Pauline McCalla, seconded Angela StClair, both of Christ the Saviour Ealing

Secretary – Wei Hei Kipling (St Mary's Ealing)

– proposed Jean Place (St Mary's Ealing), seconded Revd. Anna Poulson (St John's Southall)

Treasurer – Margaret Cobley (St Barnabas Northolt)

– proposed Julie Holmes (St Barnabas Northolt), seconded Janet Fletcher (St Mellitus)

There being one candidate for each vacancy, the candidates were elected unopposed.

Election of Deanery Synod Standing Committee members

Revd. Karen Greenidge-Silcott (All Hallows Church North Greenford)

- proposed Revd. Rachel Marszalek (All Saints Ealing),
seconded Revd. Dave Bookless (St Mary's Norwood Green)

Fr Valmor Pimenta (St Joseph the Worker)

- proposed Revd. Dave Bookless,
seconded Revd. Sameh Metry (Living Water Arabic Church / St Hugh Northolt)

Revd. Jacqueline Shalloe (Holy Cross Greenford)

- proposed Revd. David Neno (St Peter's Ealing), seconded Revd. Anna Poulson

There being sufficient vacancies, the candidates were elected unopposed.

Presentation of Accounts

Margaret Cobley, Treasurer, presented the examined accounts for the year ending 29 February 2020. The accounts were adopted (proposed Margaret Cobley; seconded Revd. Jacqueline Shalloe).

Appointment of the Independent Examiner for years ending 28 Feb 2021 and 2022

James Barron (St Stephen's Ealing) – proposed Margaret Colby, seconded Lara Hill (St Mary's Acton)

Serving as a Chaplain through the Pandemic

Revd. Julia Bevis-Knowles (Chaplain, Ealing Hospital and Meadow House Hospice) spoke of her work as a chaplain during the pandemic. While she felt it was quite early to make deep reflections, a number of points were raised in her initial comments and in the follow-up questions.

- Words often used about the pandemic include “tsunami” (first critical incident at Northwick Park; little PPE, not much idea how the virus was transmitted), “frontline” (images of war, fighting the virus)
- Some staff deciding to live separately from their families (either under the same roof or in hotels) to try to keep their families safe
- The huge demands on the staff with many staff working outside their specialist areas and having to cope with grief, uncertainty and concern about their own safety and wellbeing
- Some NHS trusts asked chaplains to work remotely but our local NHS trust allowed the chaplains to work onsite from the start. The chaplains decided to work 7 days in the week.
- Wards have been closed to visitors for most of the past year giving rise to the problem of loneliness; the chaplains were often the only visitors and were one connection between the patient and families who could not visit. The chaplains used technology to facilitate the connection or read letters from family members.
- The chaplains also supported family members using technology.
- Staff in their busyness appreciated that the chaplains had time to sit with patients
- Gratitude that chaplains were able to take the sacraments to parishioners
- A new appreciation of the value of chaplains in a hospital setting; some NHS trusts are now employing chaplains dedicated to looking after staff

The Synod expressed our thanks to Julia for her words tonight and for her valuable work at this time. Ways in which the Deanery and church members can support the chaplains

- Prayer
- Volunteers have not been able to go into the hospitals during the pandemic and so there will be a need to identify existing and new volunteers to support and work with the chaplains when restrictions permit.
- Inform the chaplains about parishioners going into hospital who might appreciate a visit

Revd. David Brammer (Chaplain, Twyford Academy Trust) was not able to attend.

Introduction of the new Area Dean – Revd. David Neno

Revd. Steve Newbold introduced the new Area Dean Revd. David Neno. The Area Dean's black scarf has already been handed over. Revd. David Neno thanked Revd. Steve Newbold for his leadership over 5 ½ years. Revd. David Neno commented that Deanery Synod is an important part of church life which we ignore at our peril. The Church of England is organized on a geographical basis and the Deanery Synod connects parishes with the wider church.

Prayer and Finish

Revd. David Neno closed the meeting with a prayer at 8.30pm.