



**Minutes of the Deanery Synod Meeting  
held at St John's Southall with zoom access (not recorded)  
on Thursday 10 November 2022 doors opened 7pm for meeting 7.30pm**

**Attendance:** In-person 15 + 4 guests; zoom 12

**Welcome and Worship.**

Area Dean Revd. David Neno welcomed us to the meeting and Revd. Anna Poulson, vicar of St John's Southall, welcomed us to the church. With reference to Revelations 7 "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language", the Southall churches are intentionally diverse with multicultural worship to reflect this.

Kailean Khongsai, ordinand at St John's Southall, explained the concept of "Outdoor" or "Outside Church" which allows the church to meet outdoors and to connect with the local community. Everybody is welcome, from the whole deanery and beyond. More information can be found on social media including a Facebook page "Southall Outside Church - rewilding worship"  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077524781457>

We were led in an act of worship including a bible reading, prayers and a multicultural sung grace with words in other languages as well as English.

**Business Items**

***School Governor for Ealing Fields***

There were no nominations for this vacancy and so the election was deferred to the synod meeting on Wednesday 8 February 2023 which will also include a focus on school governors with Penny Roberts of London Diocesan Board of Schools and others.

**Transforming Mission: What place now for the Church in 21st Century London?**

The speaker, Revd Mark Poulson, was Vicar of St John's Southall for 11 years before working as the Interreligious Affairs Adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury and also to the Church of England. Having also spent four years as a Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, he is now the Leader of the Transforming Southall and Hounslow Mission Area, based at St John's church through its resourcing arm: The Kings Centre Southall.

***Context***

Ealing is the fourth largest borough in London and is bigger than many cities. It is the most multi-ethnic centre in the world with centres of Sikh, Hindu and Polish communities, growing numbers of Muslim communities and also the African -Caribbean community.

***Secularisation***

More people are unchurched (no experience of church) rather than dechurched (experience of church but gone away) with an aggressive anti-Christian polemic. People are turning against

institutional religions and, with the internet, there is no longer the same need for a place of worship on your doorstep. However, secularisation is not “the enemy”; it keeps us honest.

### ***Peace-making***

Christians are to be peace-makers, not push-overs. Conflict can be born of fear and misunderstanding; churches include people and will therefore include conflict. We were encouraged to learn to listen and to walk with others. On the other hand, Jesus was not afraid to cause conflict and it may be necessary to confront injustice.

### ***Prophetic***

We are called to unmask the idols and to speak the truth from a position of humility. The Protestant tradition is one of dissent and our call is to model difference in relationships.

### ***Faith-Literate***

The truth will set us free. There are different pathways for people to explore the Christian faith and we have so much to learn from the Hebrew scriptures.

### ***Intercultural Church***

As was mentioned in Revelations 7 “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language”, so we are not called to be a mosaic or a melting pot but to bring our multiple cultures, seeking the welfare of the city that we call home.

- Parish system – so we are called for everyone, not just our church members
- Different styles of worship and church traditions
- People worshipping in their own tongue (legacy of Henry VIII, extended beyond English to all tongues)
- Lay leadership in every sphere and dimension of life (vocation is not just to ordination)
- Grassroots – not to rely on the powerful for change

### **Prayer and Finish**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8 February at St Dunstan’s East Acton.

The meeting with a prayer at 8.40pm.