

RICHMOND AND BARNES DEANERY SYNOD

Minutes of a meeting of the R & B D/S held on Tuesday 15th October 2013 at St. Mary Magdalene, Richmond at 7.30pm

Present: 44 Attendees signed the Attendance Register, which included some Churchwardens from the Parishes as well as Deanery Synod representatives.

Apologies; 12 Members sent apologies

Dr. Mike Springate (Lay Chair) presided, together with Rev'd Canon Tim Marwood.

- 1 The meeting opened at 7.35 pm with Dr. Mike Springate welcoming those present, including Rev'd Ann Lynes from St. Mary's Barnes and Mark Anderson, D/S rep and Churchwarden of Holy Trinity, Barnes.
- 2 Rev'd Robert Titley welcoming those present to St. Mary Magdalene, Richmond, and said prayers.
- 3 Rev'd Richard Sewell spoke on the Draft Deanery Mission Action Plan, outlining Diocesan Mission strategy, referring to an article in "The Bridge" and he advised that there was a long article on the website. RS advised that Bishop Christopher's introduction was very direct and instructional. The Strategy for Ministry contains 25 recommendations to be implemented over 5 years. Includes the policy to reduce the number of stipendiary clergy posts by 30 across the whole Diocese by 2017. Also launched a review of the Fairer Shares Scheme by which money is raised throughout the Parishes.
The six key foci are **a)** Prayer, **b)** Stewardship with God's resources **c)** Mission and Engagement, **d)** Developing collaborative Ministry **e)** Vocations **f)** Development of Deaneries. What impact would this mean on parishes?
Significance of parish Mission Action Planning and Establishment of Deanery Mission and Pastoral Working Groups.

TM thanked Rev'd RS for his presentation and said that it was necessary to put items of news on the website and he would ask Rev'd Pip Bevan to put some appropriate prayers up there.
- 4 TM said that the Churches in the Richmond and Barnes Deanery were in good faith and growing well. Churches make a good donation to the Diocese. The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group are working well. He also mentioned that there would be a reduction in the clergy numbers, the training colleges were full, many clergy were retiring and the number of

non stipendiary clergy was falling.

- 5 The congregation moved into small groups to discuss the Deanery Mission Action Plan and they came up with various comments and questions, some of which follow but many could not be heard clearly to record.

Please see appendix at the end of this document for details on the discussions.

- 6 MINUTES of the previous meeting
These were signed by the Lay Chair – Dr. MS and there were no amendments and no matters arising.

7 FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer (Veronica Willoughby) gave a report advising that all 11 parishes had paid their dues all had received thanks from her. The Diocese had given a grant of £500 and with deposits and a cheque paid out to TM for Area Dean's expenses and one other cheque, the amount in the account was £309.33p.

VW was thanked for her work as Treasurer.

8 NOTICES

In 2014 Deanery Synod Elections would take place, all persons on the electoral rolls would be eligible. TM explained the duties of a D/S rep. He advised that Dr. MS would like to retire as Lay Chair and a volunteer was needed to replace him.

Dr. MS would write a job spec for the next synod. He explained the role.

9 AREA DEAN'S NOTICES

TM thanked Rev'd Robert Titley for the venue, a warm church.

There would be a confirmation service at St. Mary's Barnes, and all names could be submitted to Rev'd Richard Sewell.

There is a vacancy at St. John the Divine, Richmond, as Rev'd Piotr Ashwin-Siejkowski is leaving for his new role in Twickenham.

Welcome to two new Deacons, Rev'd Ann Lynes at St. Mary's Barnes, and Rev'd Alwyn Webb, Holy Trinity, Richmond.

Please publicise widely the "One Hour Workshop" for Sunday School Leaders.

TM and Dr. MS thanked all for attending, including the Churchwardens and the meeting closed at 9.15 with all saying the Grace.

Draft Deanery MAP Questions and Comments

Do you have any comments on the Draft Deanery MAP?

1. Encouragement of congregational involvement in support of the minister is a priority.
2. Very good. Where's the generic leadership training, which will generate growth? Not what we're good at already. Invest in the groups where there are gaps – young people / 20s / 30s – not the elderly as there are lots already. Look to churches in Deanery to share good practice.
3. Local training may encourage more people to volunteer. Very good idea in plan. "supervision" and sharing for people who already do tasks, ie personal development – to do more. Plans for more people to do "less" each but cover the tasks is a good idea.
4. Seems to cover all areas of need. A good idea in principal. Deanery is in a better position to determine local needs and characteristics than the Diocese. Better for travel. Youth coordinator, and probably children's, will need to be a professional. Mission Action across Deanery should be very good for coordinating and pooling resources and building contacts between parishes.
5. (a) Utilise the resources of St. Mellitus and leverage the broad capability of the church. Resist laying on additional structure and administration. (b) Question if this is really required. Is the existing system not sufficient? (c) Urgent need for support and pastoral care for the elderly and rather than research, action is required.
6. In terms of "engagement" the MAP is fairly inward looking. Are we missing an opportunity to demonstrate Christian concern to other local agencies? The emphasis on communication and on sharing of skills is realistic and welcome. It is important that the parish remains the focus of Mission and ministry.
7. Looking into the possibility of setting up a credit union in each parish. Possibly reconsider the cost of training Lay Readers and also consider the use of Readers working together with other lay skills to meet the problems and needs in the community and in parishes and being prepared to travel beyond parish boundaries.
8. Training Laity – Problems in demographics – the seventy pluses running things. Parents of young children – they go to rugby etc. – difficult to find people with the willingness and time to do further training / take further responsibilities. Time poor – laity often theologically / biblically illiterate – teaching / discipleship training needed.
9. Comments recorded on another group's sheet
10. Went straight to question 2

Do you have any suggestions concerning criteria for the allocation of ministers to parishes?

1. Size of parish, age demographic and size of congregation
2. Invest in growth / future. Use lay leadership more – can ministers empower lay leadership? Be aware of the needs of churches with a strong sacramental tradition.
3. Don't just "cut" when first vacancy occurs. Think of needs of parish. Creative solutions are necessary – look at "history" too. Abolish freehold – aid mobility of priests, fewer set term / short term appointments of priests.
4. Size / population density of parish. Availability of clergy accommodation.
5. Didn't get to this question
6. Viability – in terms of numbers, strategy for growth and community impact. Contribution to "Fairer Shares". Commitment to the Diocese.
7. Would some form of measuring effect work "income and expenditure" and be more like cost accounting which can be measured

8. Didn't get to this question
9. Deploying of accredited lay ministers across parish boundaries. Sheer ability to pay should not be a criteria.
10. A suggestion that churches should have a minimum quota to warrant / merit a stipendiary priest, recognising there may be many reasons why a church may be given a period of time to improve. Some unease about this – ie prospect of churches closing.