**RICHMOND AND BARNES DEANERY SYNOD**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH OCTOBER 2016 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, RICHMOND AT 7.30PM

34 members attended with 11 apologies received,

1. The meeting followed a supper and opened with the hymn Crown Him with Many Crowns.
2. Prayer - Trevor Patterson,
3. Trevor welcome the Bishop Kingston, the Rt Revd Dr Richard Cheetham who was visiting the Deanery.

          He also introduced Tricia Lockerby who would be temporarily acting as Deanery Secretary.

Trevor said that Holy Trinity was entering an exciting time as it considered further development of its facilities and future ministry.  The Victorians had vision by building for the long term and we should follow their example and not limit ourselves.

1. Bishop Richard thanked the Deanery for its welcome and hospitality.  Sharing a meal together and getting to know one another makes a genuine difference.  The Bishop spoke about building relationships - across the Deanery and with each other - which would lead to fruitful ministry.  Later the meeting would break into groups to consider how to develop ministry across the Deanery.

In a world where half the population self-identify as having no religion it is important to use our God given gifts to carry our God's mission here.  We are flawed human beings but God's grace should be our bedrock.

Mission of the Church - three crucial elements to church life:

1.  Worship and Prayer - our relationship with God grows through this.

2. Teaching and Preaching and sharing of faith - Create an atmosphere where people can explore their faith through preaching, homegroups, social media, YouTube.

3.  Living it out - loving our neighbour; social justice; the environment; pastoral care.

The Diocese is there to equip churches and chaplaincies.  We are in a time of tremendous change in episcopal areas.  Demographics are changing and there is information available on the Diocesan website.

The Bishop recommended two booklets (copies available at the meeting):

*Ministry Matters* includes a wide range of events and courses for those engaged in ministry in the Diocese of Southwark.

*Deepening Discipleship* focuses on resources, training and events that support discipleship and ministry for lay people.

The Kingston Area Day is to be held on Saturday. 17th June 2017.

Deaneries - With the Diocese of Southwark being huge and the Kingston Episcopal Area having one and a half million people living in the area, the role of Deaneries and partnership with neighbours is very important.  Churches should join together to share knowledge and crossover of skills in many areas such as:

Youth and Children's work;

Elderly care;

Civic engagement;

Partnerships with local key organisations and an awareness of what they are doing;

Relationships with schools, particularly secondary schools.

The meeting then broke into four groups to consider the following questions:

What creative opportunities do we have to work together as churches in the Deanery?

What hurdles might we face in realising these in practice?

Could you name a top priority for co-operation in ministry at this time?

Feedback:

**Creative opportunities**

Richard Sewell, St Mary's Barnes: Two way flow of information, identify those who need help in particular areas and those who can offer help.

Alan Sykes, Richmond Team Ministry:  As Deanery is large, create sub areas and work together on certain areas - youth work, refugees, Lent activities on a theme.

Karin Boyton, Holy Trinity Richmond:  Sharing a meal together more often.

David Guest, Christ Church, East Sheen:  Create a Deanery Facebook page (closed book) to share successes, ideas, help, things happening.  It would just need 2-3 people to administer.  Trevor asked anyone interested to contact him.

Wilma Roest, St Mary Magdalene: in her previous deanery a banner had been passed between the churches for external display – “Tooting deanery welcomes refugees”

**Hurdles**

Mary Ricketts St John the Divine:  Being a large Deanery it was not easy for people to visit other churches.

Katharine v Schubert, St Peter's Petersham: Build bridges with local churches.  Although action had been taken on issues feedback has not been happening.

Ruth Jackson, Holy Trinity, Barnes:  Things happen when people know each other.  Recognise differences but do things together.

**Priorities**

Trevor Patterson, Holy Trinity Richmond:  Communication is key.

Mel Le Visconte, St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake: Not forget older people through lunch clubs etc.

Ruth Jackson, Holy Trinity Barnes:  Change the narrative of the Church. People think that church is not relevant.  We should show that God cares passionately.

Bishop Richard said that the Deanery should be positive and focus on what it can do, not oppressed by what it can't do.  Don't be anxious or fearful but look out for opportunities God is presenting.

1. Finance - Veronica Willoughby, Deanery Treasurer, reported that church Treasurers had been asked to double their contributions towards Deanery expenses and they had responded accordingly - many thanks.
2. Area Dean's Notices - Trevor welcomed Wilma Roest, Rector Richmond Team Ministry, to her first Deanery Synod.

Stuart Lee had become Chaplain to Richmond Charities.

Anne Crawford would be Instituted as Vicar of St Matthias on 14th November 2016 at 7.30pm.

1. AOB - none.
2. Date of Next Meeting - 12th January 2017 - venue to be confirmed.
3. The hymn O for a heart to praise my God was sung.
4. Bishop Richard closed the meeting with Prayer.