

RICHMOND AND BARNES DEANERY SYNOD

Wednesday 9th May 2018 – 7.30 pm

at HOLY TRINITY, BARNES
162 Castelnau, Barnes, SW13 9ET`

MINUTES

- 1 Hymn, “Crown Him with many crowns” accompanied by Geraldine Stride and opening prayer with the newly appointed Area Dean, Peter Hart.
- 2 Welcome to Holy Trinity, Rev Adam Rylett
- 3 Dementia friendly – how can churches help?

Discussion lead by Tania Williams, Dementia Support Manager (Richmond), Alzheimer’s Society

Tania outlined the nature of dementia (of which Alzheimer’s is one form – though the Alzheimer’s Society supports people with all kinds of dementia), from the slow decline associated with Alzheimer’s to the sudden impairment with vascular dementia (eg after a stroke). The diagnosis is important to understand the prognosis and therefore the needs. Diagnosis is also the trigger for some kinds of support, such as a Council Tax rebate. Alzheimer’s Society helps people who are diagnosed with dementia and their carers.

The use of the wrong words, failing motor skills, changes in vision, sequencing (eg dressing), and changing inhibitions maybe the first signs of dementia. Ordinary poor memory can be distinguished when the memory loss interferes with normal life.

In the borough of Richmond upon Thames 2,300 people have dementia. GPs refer patients to the Barnes Hospital memory clinic. Sometimes there will be safeguarding issues handled by the Council’s social services access team. The local Alzheimer’s Society can provide constant support to individuals affected by dementia and their carers.

Living well can be consistent with a dementia diagnosis. Language matters: “living with” “affected by” are helpful; “suffering” “living death” are not. It can be helpful to listen carefully, repeat back what has been understood, speak in clear, calm, short sentences, maintaining eye contact and consistent body language.

In a church, small changes can make a big difference:

- good signage to toilets, an induction loop, a designated quiet space. Some things are difficult to address directly (eg patterned tiles or echoes) but it’s important to recognize the impact these may have.

- Offer lifts to church, a nominated person to welcome on arrival
- Short, 30 minute, dementia friendly services with familiar liturgy and hymns
- Address the practicalities of Holy Communion: is holding a cup difficult, would a smaller host help?

Ask PCC's to consider:

- Dementia Friends workshop (run by Alzheimer's Society) lasting 45 minutes for up to 50 people
- Seek to join the Richmond Dementia Action Alliance. This has 65 member organisations (offices, shops, churches) which have pledged to be dementia friendly.
https://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/4742_london_borough_of_richmond_upon_thames_dementia_action_alliance
- Host a memory café (as at Teddington Methodist Church)

In response to questions and points raised:

- Within the deanery
 - St Michael & All Angels and Christ Church East Sheen have run Retro Cafés. Sometimes by invitation, these can provide a social occasion, including memorabilia, newspapers, songs
 - St Mary, Barnes has held a dementia friendly carol service: early afternoon, short and simple
- Wigmore Hall has dementia friendly concerts and a singing group. Royal Albert Hall and Strawberry Hill also have specific events.
- Diagnosis can have downsides, such as depression, loss of driving license

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4 Minutes of meeting of 24th January 2018 were accepted.

5 Glass Door – 2017/18 experience and next steps for 2018/19

General acknowledgement that the initiative had been highly successful.
Comments from across the deanery:

- St John the Divine – 20 guests every night
- Barnes Methodist Church – always full
- St Matthias – lots of volunteers. King's House School provided cakes, which extended the engagement across the community
- Christ Church – 15 to 20 guests, lots of volunteers (including from the local RC church). Waitrose and Tesco also provided support.
- Some increase in attendance at Vineyard lunches

What next?

- Glass Door want to carry on, ideally with more guests and more locations and over a longer period, say November to Easter
 - Some churches cannot provide the right space: 2 rooms are needed for sleeping and an adequate kitchen
 - Longer commitments may be difficult, perhaps November to Easter could be divided into 2 cycles of 8 weeks, which would mean doubling the number of venues
 - One church from the neighbouring deanery (Hampton) was included in the 17/18 circuit and perhaps this can be expanded
- 6 Diocesan Synod Election July 2018. Nomination papers will be distributed on 11 May.
- 7 Parish Support Fund. This deanery's pledge is vital for the diocese. Let's make sure it's increased for 2019.
- 8 Treasurer's update. To comply with a new Barclays requirement, the Lay Chair will be added as a cheque signatory
- 9 Area Dean's Notices. Simon Coupland will be licensed at St Richard's, Ham on 11 July.
- 10 Closing Prayer

The next meeting of the Deanery Synod will be on Monday 8th October, St Anne's, Kew Green

Then in 2019:

Wednesday 29th January, Wednesday 5th June, Monday 14th October