

RICHMOND AND BARNES DEANERY SYNOD

Wednesday 5th June 2019 – 7.30 pm

At ALL SAINTS, EAST SHEEN

MINUTES

- 1 Welcome to All Saints from Rev Alex Barrow, who led prayer and mindful of this evening's theme, a meditation based on the Parable of the Persistent Widow (*Luke 18:1-8*).
- 2 Elizabeth Booker, Public Policy Research Officer at the department of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, Diocese of Southwark: talk and discussion about the role of the department and how it can support deaneries and parishes on issues of social justice.

Elizabeth used a PowerPoint presentation which is available for reference by clicking [here](#).

She started by introducing the work of the department and handed out an information sheet (see final page). The work of the department is rooted in the last three marks of mission, namely:

Tend: to respond to human need by loving service.

Transform: to transform unjust structures of society.

Treasure: to safeguard the integrity of creation

The department works across a broad spectrum of issues including diversity and inclusion, environment, social and community cohesion, interfaith and religious dialogue, housing and homelessness, Justice, Peace and the Law, poverty, migration and refugees. The staff team work together and individually to support, inspire and lead in specific areas of work and expertise. We were encouraged to contact any member of the department.

The talk focused on *Transforming Unjust Structures of Society* (the fourth mark of mission).

From *Micah 6:8*– “The Lord requires us to do **justice**, and to love **kindness**”. We are very good at kindness or charity but unless we do the justice we are not doing God’s work.

What are the big, small and medium structures of society?

Political, family, education, Church (yes, we are a structure too), work and business, economy, care system, social media....

How do we network between the large and small structures?

What makes a structure unjust?

Social Justice is God's original plan for our society. If all our structures and institutions were just, there would be no need for charity. Therefore, we need to tackle the root cause of injustice.

Two examples of how the JPIC is working to tackle injustice in society:

Teaching English to Refugees – If people can't speak English they are cut off from our society. Teaching English to such people stops isolation, supports integration and gives refugees hope.

Tackling Holiday Hunger – 1 in 5 children are going hungry during the school holidays. Together Southwark is working with local authorities to provide playgroups etc with a meal provided. Need to tackle why children are going hungry – parents working or no money, family breakdown....

Serious Youth Violence is a major issue, especially knife crime. Although Richmond has the second lowest rate of knife crime across the London, children in other boroughs are not safe and we are one body.

The Church has a structure. *How can we use that structure to make a difference?*

Youth work, Street Pastors, supporting vulnerable families, providing safe places for children to play... Church of England schools is another huge structure that can be used as school exclusion is a big risk factor.

Reigate Deanery put forward a motion on Knife Crime (click [here](#)) at the last Diocesan Synod which is being carried forward to General Synod.

Croydon North Deanery, working with Croydon Citizens, has led a listening campaign across parishes, to identify problems in need of solving. Although many issues came up, from mental health to homelessness, it was the relationship between young people and the police that emerged as the priority. An example of how the Deanery structure empowered young people to have a voice.

How can our Deanery Structure be used?

We were challenged to discuss in pairs and suggest answers to the following questions:

- What unjust structures affect those in your community/church?
- What unjust structures affect those in other parts of the Diocese?
- What resources as a deanery do you have that can be used?
- What do you think might be the next step for you/ your church/deanery to start challenging unjust structures?

Unjust structures that affect us:

The Benefit System – from stories repeatedly told at the FoodBank. Benefits can be cut or stopped due to changes in circumstances, sometimes wrongly, leaving people and families without any money coming in for weeks or even months.

Together Southwark provide training to support Universal Credit.

Housing – homelessness has risen due to high rents and lack of affordable housing, yet homes are left unoccupied due to second home ownership and new builds are not affordable.

Deanery Response - GlassDoor

We will use the next Deanery Synod to explore these questions more.

3 Knife Crime: A response from Richmond & Barnes Deanery

Following the discussion on knife crime at Diocesan Synod, Marian Mollet was moved by the story of a Parish who had to give up their Knife Bin due to lack of funds. A knife bin may not solve the knife crime problem but if just one individual is encouraged to give up a knife then a life may be saved or at the very least that person is relieved of the burden of carrying a knife. Marian is proposing that we as a Deanery fund a Knife Bin via [Word 4 Weapons](#) to be placed somewhere in the Diocese where it would be most needed. £10,000 is needed to fund a bin for five years as follows:

- £4,000 manufacture, delivery, 1st year maintenance
- £1,535 subsequent annual maintenance

It works out as £5.70 for each person on the electoral rolls of Richmond & Barnes or around £750 per Church. Money may be raised via specific fundraising activities, a donation from the PCC or any means you choose.

ACTION – Discuss in your PCCs and report back at the October synod when a decision will be made.

Charles Stiller (Richmond Team Ministry) was also moved by the discussion on knife crime at Diocesan Synod. He took the issues and the Diocese and Synod's current response and thoughts to both the Richmond Team Ministry, "Away Giving Committee" and PCC.

This resulted an agreed donation of £1,000 from their Annual "Away Giving" to the Diocese to help towards:

- knife bin(s) - also agreeing they should be in a more needy part of the Diocese than ours.
- what were referred to as "Pizza Clubs" - churches opening their doors offering hospitality from 16:00 – 18:00 (or 20:00), giving children a safe place to go between close of school and a parent or guardian being at

home. This is the most vulnerable time for children. There are reasons why they may not want to go home and instead are on the streets. Children need welcoming open doors. It was noted that there is good after school provision in the deanery at least at primary school level but that's not where the problem lies.

Elizabeth Booker pointed us towards [Power the Fight](#) who provide training and resources to equip families, churches, faith groups and community organisations to engage with youth violence issues. She also told us to talk to the Diocese if we have good ideas.

There is much work to be done.

4 Paula Brackenridge demonstrated the new deanery website -

<http://richmondandbarnesdeanery.org.uk/>

There are pages with resources and synod information (eg minutes and agendas) but what is the home page that was focused on. One thing we would like to do as a Deanery is to share our resources and good practice – we want to shout about what we are doing well. The home page contains “Deanery Highlights”. Not just adverts for events but what we are doing to further mission as individual Churches and as a Deanery eg GlassDoor, Richmond Team Ministry’s “Faith at Home” workshop, Mortlake Team Ministry’s “Holiday at Home”, where can I find an Alpha course.....

ACTION – email your news and think about what you want to see highlighted.

Email a few words with pictures if possible to the deanerysynod@gmail.com. You may think something isn't worth sharing, it just seems ordinary to you but every Church is different. You might be doing something that another Church hasn't thought of. Or doing something very similar to another Church and you could share ideas and resources.

We will also pass stories onto the Diocesan Communications Office for inclusion in The Bridge. Your story may even make it into national press!

Deanery Synod members use this website to prepare for your next PCC meeting if there hasn't been a Synod Meeting for a while.

ACTION – share the website with your congregation.

so that everyone knows what their neighbouring Churches and indeed their own Church are doing. Consider putting it in your Newsletters, Parish Magazines or your Service Sheets.

5 Welcare will host a Service of Thanksgiving in Southwark Cathedral at 11am on Saturday 15th June, to celebrate work with families over the years, and to look

forward to a bright and positive future. Their President, The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Christopher Chessun, will officiate and preach. Volunteers, staff, and young people will contribute to the service.

6 Mortlake Crematorium is 80 years old this year and will host a “Full of Life” fair on Saturday 29th June. The crematorium is an extraordinary place, not grim at all. It provides quiet and inspiring spaces for those who are grieving. There will be representatives at the fair who support the bereaved – neighbourhood groups such as FiSH and The Avenue Club, Citizens Advice. The Deanery is presenting the crematorium with a Bible but we also need to work out how else the Deanery will be represented.

7 Glass Door Update: Rev Peter Hart reported

- We had 158 guests in our shelters - ⅓ from the UK, ⅓ from the EU and ⅓ from the rest of the world . Guests included 58 women, the highest percentage of the four circuits. However some women would just come for the meal and then go..
- 35 people have been rehoused.
- Large numbers have been reconnected with benefits and family.
- The Glass Door project was mentioned in a recent council meeting. This year the council have been very supportive of the project unlike three years ago.
- Issues arising this year that GlassDoor are addressing for next year:
 - Need to consider disabled access
 - Need to make closer links with women’s refuges
 - Training in mental health issues so issues with guests can be spotted. It was noted the police needed training as well as the volunteers.
- The Deanery hosted 4 out of the 7 nights in the Richmond circuit and the level of volunteering has been wonderful.

Rev Alex Barrow mentioned he would be participating in a Sleep Out in central London at the beginning of October and anyone was welcome to join him. One guest was quoted as saying “I had no home and lost my business but GlassDoor turned my life around” .

8 Bishop Richard and the Archdeacons will be holding a Pentecost evening service on Sunday 9th June.

9 Building works at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond have finished, and the Church is beautiful – go and look. There will be a Service of Rededication at on Sunday 21st July (the feast of St Mary Magdalene).

- 10 A Deanery Choral Evensong on the festival of Christ the King (Sunday 24th November) at St Mary Magdalene.
- 11 Confirmations this year: Sunday 30th June at St Michael Barnes and Sunday 14th July at Holy Trinity Richmond. Confirmations will otherwise be taking place at the Cathedral throughout the year.
- 12 Closing Prayer

The next meeting of the Deanery Synod will be on

Monday 7th October 2019, St Mary Magdalene, Richmond



JPIC

Department of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation

Director: Revd Canon Dr Rosemarie Mallett, rosemarie.mallett@southwark.anglican.org

Diocese

Ensuring the Diocese as a whole supports social justice issues.

- Supporting Mission Action Plans
- Feeding local priorities into wider diocesan planning.
- Monitoring and evaluations

Public square

- Supporting the Diocesan Bishop with briefings on public policy/ social justice issues.
- Publishing articles and papers on social justice issues.
- Connecting with local and national politicians, social justice activists and other organisations
- Working strategically with civil society

Parishes

Supporting individual parishes to tackle social justice issues through:

- Listening to priorities
- Providing resources
- Putting on training and events
- Connecting people



JPIC working in three directions

Diversity and Inclusion

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Poverty

Together Southwark
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Welcoming 'the stranger'

Refugee coordinator
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Inter-faith

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JPIC

The department's aim is to support the Diocese and its churches to fulfil the 3rd, 4th and 5th marks of mission:

Tend: Respond to need with loving service.

Transform: Change society's unjust structures.

Treasure: Safeguard the integrity of creation.

(Adapted by the Diocese of Southwark in 'Living the Marks of Mission')

Public Policy

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Accessibility and Disability

Contact: Revd Tim Goode
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Environment

Contact: Sue Mallinson (volunteer)
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Walking | Welcoming | Growing



Loving God
Walking with Jesus
Led by the Spirit
July 24, 13, 25