

RICHMOND AND BARNES DEANERY SYNOD

Tuesday 6th July 2021 – 7.30 pm

Via ZOOM

MINUTES

- 1 Opening Prayers led by Rev Dan Wells from Holy Trinity, Richmond (the intended venue for this Synod).
- 2 Introduction and welcome by Rev Alex Barrow:
 - Welcome to new Deanery Synod lay members and to three new members of the clergy:
 - i. Rev Dr Melanie Harrington, incumbent at St Philip and All Saints with St Luke's, Kew.
 - ii. Rev Charlie Smith, curate at Richmond Team Ministry.
 - iii. Rev Sylvie Collins-Mayo (not present), curate at Mortlake and East Sheen Team Ministry.
 - New lay and clergy members briefly introduced themselves.
- 3 Rev Alex Barrow led a discussion: "What is Deanery?"

What sort of things should we be doing together as a Deanery? What do you want from a Deanery? We are thinking of things we can do together, rather than things that parishes more naturally do by themselves.

Smaller discussions were had in breakout rooms which transpired to the following ideas and comments:

 - Deanery provides way of sharing resources and learning from each other's experiences.
 - Deanery provides a forum for discussion in which a diversity of views is encouraged. Firstly, we can feedback our opinions to the Diocese on matters they want us to discuss but we can also come up with our own issues for discussion and decide what is important to us. As a Deanery, we are in a better position to attract speakers who would want to reach out to many churches rather than 1 or 2.
 - Deanery is a way of building fellowship beyond parish boundaries. It is important to consider yourself not just as part of one church but as part of a wider group.
 - We would like to worship and pray together as a Deanery. We held a Deanery Evensong in 2019 and would like this to be an annual event.

Could we come together to give thanks after Covid or perhaps even plan a retreat? Would there be an appetite for a Deanery Prayer Group? This would be different to prayer groups which many churches are already running. We could come together to pray for the Borough for example.

- As a Deanery we have been working together on projects which include Glass Door, raising funds for a Knife Bin and supporting Welcare. Are there other projects we could be working together on? The practical things we are doing in our Churches are strengthened by us getting together and it's a reminder that we're all one body. We must be careful as Deanery works well when it is resourcing mission on the ground in parishes rather than duplicating or creating an extra layer of bureaucracy. We want to learn from each other.

We are looking to expand the Deanery Leadership Team beyond the three offices and Area Dean. We are looking for people with ideas and the energy to carry them out. Please let us know if you are interested. You will not be asked to fill a formal role but asked to contribute to ideas and discussions to what to bring forward for Deanery Synod's consideration.

4 Living in Love and Faith.

This is a Church of England listening and reporting back exercise to enable the voices of individuals in parishes to be heard in terms of our different views, experiences and theologies of marriage and Christian sexual ethics. Individual parishes are being encouraged to engage with this project, but it is entirely optional. Deaneries are being asked to facilitate this project to bring together those with different points of view and church backgrounds to listen to one another and to discuss. There is a five-week course which the deanery can offer if people are interested but there is no compulsion to join in. We will probably run this over September/October either online or in person (or both depending on interest). It is a highly structured course with bible passages and video clips. We have had training in running the course, so it will be a safe place for people to share their views. Parishes and teams are also free to run their own course if they wish.

5 Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

6 Adoption of "The Role of Deaneries and the Rules and Constitution of Deanery Synods".

New rules were approved by the Southwark Diocesan Synod in July 2020 and are in the 20-page document that was previously circulated.

The new Rules as set out in Part B VII and Appendix A of the document were

adopted and the remainder of the document was received and noted.

7 Election of Lay Chair and Treasurer

Rev Alex Barrow thanked Marian Mollett (in her absence) for her six years of service as Lay Chair and for the thought, wisdom, time and energy she brought to the role. He had presented her that afternoon with a rose bush and gardening vouchers on behalf of the Deanery.

Margot Gallie (Richmond Team Ministry) and Rev Ann Nickson (St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake) proposed and seconded Charles Stiller as Lay Chair.

Jonathan Turley (St Luke's, Kew) and Philip Bladen (St Mary's, Barnes) proposed and seconded Veronica Willoughby as Treasurer.

Both Charles and Veronica were duly elected, and Rev Alex Barrow thanked them for standing.

8 Glass Door intend to offer a full winter service plus a city centre hostel.

Glass Door Annual Sleepout 2021 – Friday 1st October. The usual venue of Duke of York Square has limited spaces this year due to social distancing. Glass Door are encouraging local sleepouts. Could we hold a Deanery sleepout at a venue to be decided? We don't want to preclude individual churches from holding their own sleepout however, but it may be good to do something like this together. Individuals are sponsored and the funds go to running this winter's night shelters. Click [here](#) to found out more.

9 Charles Stiller gave an update on the Knife Bin Appeal. Having raised sufficient money from the Churches in the Deanery to place a knife bin wherever it is needed in the Diocese, the next step was to decide on the location. We have been in touch with Nicola Thomas, head of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation at Southwark Diocese and have had discussions with the Archdeacons and Metropolitan Police about where would be best to place the bin. The bin is movable so the location can be changed. The Metropolitan Police have given us maps showing existing and suitable locations for a knife bin. We are sharing these maps with the Archdeacons who will approach their parishes to find out which churches would welcome a knife bin in their churchyard.

10 Vacancies continue at St Anne's, Kew and St Peter's Petersham. St Anne's are in the process of drawing up a Parish Profile and St Peter's are ready to place an advert in the Church Times in August.

11 Rev Canon Wilma Roest gave an update on the Governor situation at Christ's School. Since our meeting in February, Christ's have recruited some new

governors (although not via the Deanery route) but are looking for more. She also spoke about the many vacancies at Richmond Alms Houses which have arisen due to a few deaths and people moving away. Applications are very warmly invited and will be processed quickly for anyone in housing need. Click [here](#) for more information.

12 Rev Alex Barrow closed with a prayer and the Grace.

The next meetings of the Deanery Synod will be on

Monday 4th October 2021 - St Matthias, Richmond

We hope that we will be able to meet in person.