

RICHMOND AND BARNES DEANERY SYNOD
praying together, learning together, working together

Monday 4th October 2021 – 7.30 pm

At ST MATTHIAS, RICHMOND

MINUTES

1 Welcome and opening prayers led by Rev Anne Crawford.

2 Introduction and welcome by Rev Alex Barrow.

3 Faith Response to Climate Change.

Susan Armstrong from the Holy Trinity, Richmond, Creation Care Group spoke about the work they are doing at Holy Trinity. In particular, she spoke about the use of outdoor spaces for biodiversity and creating natural habitats for wildlife. Holy Trinity is setting up a wildlife garden in a previously underused part of the church grounds. She reported it took nearly a year from inception to set up the Creation Care group but progressed more rapidly to plan and begin work on the wildlife garden. The group is accountable to PCC, has a small budget and one person is on both the buildings committee and the Creation Care group. They found it useful to have Evernote account and a WhatsApp group for communication between active members. They have contributed to a church newsletter and created a webpage on the church website. They were keen to get the youth group involved and consulted them frequently about what they wanted. They have cleared litter and bottles etc, installed bird boxes, a log pile and are planning a bug hotel and insect and bird-friendly planting. They have benefitted from a huge variety of experience within the church and have been advised on wildlife-friendly measures and native species of plants to encourage wildlife.

Holy Trinity is also working towards their Eco-Church Bronze award and are nearly there. Susan spoke about the detailed survey that is required to be completed and said that having paid staff had helped this. She said that some measures that you may not expect (eg pruning trees, installing a bench) required application to the diocese for faculties but it is worth persevering through the somewhat lengthy process.

She also said that nature and creation care is not the object of worship but part of the five marks of mission

Rev Anne Crawford spoke about the ECO-Day that had taken place at St Matthias the previous Saturday (2nd October).

The aim of the day was to link the scientific evidence behind Climate Change to theology. Dr Martin Hodson and Revd Margot Hodson from the John Ray Initiative in Oxford (www.jri.org.uk) shared their expertise and learning through a day of free workshops, lectures and hands-on experiences. The day was sadly not well attended perhaps because “people do not want any more worry”. Despite that, the day helped people to be realistic about the task in hand. They were reminded that government policy has made a difference (eg the hole in the ozone layer, acid rain). However, the 2015 COP 21 promised to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2°C, but temperatures are still increasing. We only have 10 years to turn this around, so it is vital that governments come together.

Other matters that arose were

- Nitrogen from burning fossil fuels and fertilisers posed a greater risk to our oceans than plastics.
- Soil erosion and lack of soil quality is a problem leading to less nutritious plants (it would now take 5 apples a day to keep the doctor away!).
- There is a great deal of anxiety in young people today so much so that they do not want to think about climate change. The media must be more responsible in their reporting.

Even though we have not looked after God’s world as much as we should have, we must remember that God is still there. The Church must educate and stand up to make sure governments take notice.

4 Sharing best practice about ECO-Church.

Rev Simon Coupland from St Richard’s, Ham, spoke about their journey to [ECO-Church](#) status. One of their aims, as a church, is to honour God and show our love for his Creation by raising awareness of (and care for) his Creation. This is the Fifth Mark of Mission identified by the Church of England as showing people God’s love.

There are five key areas of Church life which are considered:

Worship and Teaching:

It is very important that the incumbent is behind this. Liturgy for Communion in Creation-tide, prayers and hymns highlighting Creation and care for our environment, a Harvest talk by Andy Atkins of A Rocha UK and sermons from Simon on caring for the environment. During lockdown using lots of glorious images of local nature – and worldwide – to remind us of the need to care for creation. Holding a National Climate Sunday service. In this area we have reached

Gold Award status.

Buildings:

100% renewable energy from Bulb. Measuring our carbon footprint and offsetting any unavoidable carbon usage; twinning our toilet with one in a developing country – we're now looking at twinning bins, taps and fridges.

Land:

Bird boxes and bird feeders in the trees in the churchyard, preparing ground and sowing a suitable wildflower seed mix in the churchyard, a nature-friendly mowing regime and a magnificent bug hotel! Taking part in a national count of species in the church grounds – which are not much of a nature reserve – and finding bee orchids!

Lifestyle:

Using Fairtrade coffee and tea, eco-friendly cleaning materials and loo paper. Fair Trade – different people review products for the Newsletter from time to time. Measuring our own carbon footprint – as well as the church's. It's not just about the church changing their ways but encouraging the congregation to change their lifestyle too so a sheet with all sorts of ways we can make a difference was produced (see end). Sign up for free E-news or Wild Christian from A Rocha UK.

Community and Global Engagement:

Getting more people to join and support Friends of Ham Lands and advertise their activities. Putting up notices in church to turn off lights, close doors etc. to save energy. Support an environmental charity as a church. Promote Eco-Church locally e.g. in the local magazine.

There are some pictures of St Richard's Journey to the Eco-Church Bronze Award included at the end.

The members of the synod were invited to discuss in groups what they could do in a church context to help the environment and to think of one thing that would be achievable and one thing that would propose a considerable challenge. A lot of conversation was had with the following results:

Achievable

- Fairtrade or local produce sales in church. People now accept that such products are more expensive.
- Placing bird boxes on a patch of land

Difficult

- Church heating

5 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. 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. We are running a five-week course via Zoom (Wednesday evenings) or in person (Sunday afternoons), starting 13th October (see below for full details) (*post meeting update: the start of the course was delayed to 24th October*). It is a highly structured course with bible passages and video clips. Rev Alex Barrow, Charles Stiller and Paula Brackenridge will be running this course and have had training, 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.

I'm worried I may be targeted for my views

Confidentiality and respect of other people's views is paramount. Our course will be a safe space for people to express their views. The first session focusses on how we learn together.

Will I miss out on important conversations if I don't attend both sessions?

We are offering two dates for the same session purely to allow people flexibility. There is no need to attend both sessions. The conversations may be different but there are lots of different conversations going on around the country and these conversations will all be fed back to the Church of England.

6 Wandsworth Area Mission & Pastoral Committee

The Wandsworth Area Mission & Pastoral Committee exists to advise the Bishop when a parish falls into vacancy as to whether the post should be filled as is or as something else. Each deanery is represented by the Area Dean, one member of the clergy and one lay member. There is now a vacancy for the lay member. A candidate should have a good long-standing knowledge of the area. The commitment is three evenings a year. Please email Rev Alex Barrow (alexbarrow1@gmail.com) if you are interested or want any more information. If there are several people interested in the post an election may be held.

7 Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

8 Glass Door

Risk assessments are being carried out in churches now. [Glass Door](#) intend to offer a largely normal season of night shelters starting the first week in November. Rev Dan Wells said that he had heard that the shelters may not go ahead in Richmond and other areas due to objections from the local councils. We are invited to pray about this. (*post meeting update: Glass Door will probably need to start the shelters on a staggered basis, with Kensington & Chelsea and Wandsworth opening in November and others hopefully opening after Christmas.*)

Glass Door Annual Sleepout 2021 was held on Friday 1st October. One member of the Synod had slept out in Duke of York Square.

9 Charles Stiller gave an update on the Knife Bin Appeal. Two churches have been identified as suitable places to locate the bin. This is now with the PCCs of those parishes, and it is hoped that a location may be finalized by the time of the next meeting. He noted that although knife in London was down, fatalities continue to rise.

10 General Synod Elections – the deadline for voting is Friday 8th October. Members are encouraged to listen to hustings. The main business of General Synod over the next three years is likely to include the outcome of LLF, environmental issues, financial difficulties facing some dioceses and moves to close parishes quicker.

Rev Chris Griffiths from Christ Church, East Sheen sadly died at the end of August. His funeral is on Monday 11th October. Prayers are requested. Rev Heather Peters has been appointed as interim team vicar with special responsibility for Christ Church.

11 Rev Simon Coupland asked for prayers for the upcoming interviews for a new incumbent at St Peters, Petersham which are taking place on Wednesday 13th October.

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

The next meetings of the Deanery Synod will be on

Wednesday 26th January 2022 – Holy Trinity, Richmond

Tuesday 7th June 2022 – St Philip and All Saints (the Barn Church), Kew

Monday 3rd October 2022 - St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake

But what can one person do?

- Don't leave appliances on stand-by, turn them off when you're not using them. Don't leave your phone or laptop charging all night (and save yourself money!)
- If you're changing electrical appliances, buy ones with Energy Saving Recommended labels. But don't change them unless you need to.
- Switch to a 100% green electricity supplier such as Bulb, Octopus, Green Energy, Good Energy or Ecotricity. Look at www.bigcleanswitch.org/tearfund/
- Walk, cycle or use public transport wherever possible. Share car journeys if you can. Don't fly unless you really have to (even when there's no pandemic).
- Recycle – it's amazing how many people still throw away recyclable plastic, paper, cardboard and food.
- Don't buy water in plastic bottles – drink tap water. If you want to carry bottled water, get a reusable one.
- Try to cut down on food waste – buy what you need.
- Eat less meat, and locally grown food rather than imported from far away.
- Make sure your house is insulated as well as possible, and draught proof doors and windows.
- Turn down the thermostat and wear an extra layer.
- Don't leave the heating on when you're not at home.
- Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
- LED light bulbs use less energy than others and can last twenty times longer.
- Try to save water: take (non-power) showers instead of baths, turn off the tap while you're brushing your teeth.
- Only turn on your washing machine and dishwasher with a full load, and use lower temperature cycles.
- Support wildlife in your garden, if you have one.
- Volunteer with Friends of Ham Lands or litter pick with the Ham and Petersham Association.
- Sign up with and support a conservation charity such as A Rocha, WWF, or Friends of the Earth.

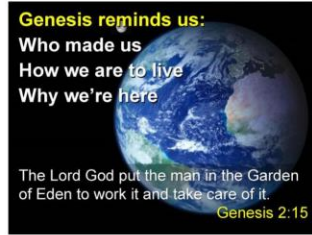
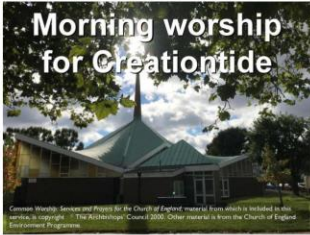


The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it.

Psalm 24:1

St Richard's Journey to the Eco-Church Bronze Award in pictures

Worship and Teaching:



Land:



Community and Global Engagement:

ST. RICHARD'S, HAM BECOMES AN ECO-CHURCH

Along with hundreds of others wanting to show the message of Jesus is good news for God's earth, we have committed to caring for the created world by joining A Rocha UK's Eco-Church movement, helping communities all over the country take action.

Our environment is already an important part of our lives and this now gives us a great opportunity to have more impact.

What we're doing already
Look out for bird and bat boxes going up which will encourage nesting in our beautiful trees, and look out for insect friendly flowers being planted on our green.

We also plan to support the other organisations in Ham with their environmental activities.

What you can do next

1. Like our Facebook page strichardham for updates
2. Email strichardscurate@yahoo.com to be involved
3. Visit www.ecochurch.a Rocha.org.uk to learn more

2 BILLION PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A LOO

Sti's family used to go to the toilet in the open. So they were constantly sick and had built up huge debts paying for medicines. Now they have a proper toilet, they're healthy and can afford to build a new home.

For £60 you can twin your toilet and help a family like Sti's have a flushing loo. You'll receive a toilet twin certificate, like the ones in the toilets at St Richard's Ham.

"We take our church toilets for granted. It's hard to see it as a sacred, shared part of working habits for the 1.6m people in the world who don't have them."

Mark, church warden, St Richard's

0300 321 3217
www.toilet-twinning.org
#toilet-twinning
@toilet-twinning
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toilet twinning



LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH

How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?

What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

The Living in Love and Faith project is the Church of England's national process asking individuals, parishes, deaneries and communities to reflect on matters related to sexuality, gender and relationships. The Church of England have produced an introductory video (click [here](#)) and a podcast (click [here](#)) if you want to find out more.

The Deanery is running the Living in Love and Faith course which aims to help us think more deeply about what it means to be human and about how to live in love and faith. This five week course covers the following topics and is available via Zoom or in person at St Mary Magdalene, Church Walk, Richmond:

1. Learning Together

What does it mean to learn together as followers of Jesus Christ?

2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 24th October at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 27th October via Zoom

2. Identity

How does our identity in Christ relate to sex and gender?

2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 31st October at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 3rd November via Zoom

3. Relationships

What kinds of relationships does God call us to?

2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 7th November at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 10th November via Zoom

4. Sex

Where do our bodies and sex fit in to all of this?

2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 14th November at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 17th November via Zoom

5. Life together

How do diversity and difference affect our life together as a church?

2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 21st November at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 24th November via Zoom

To join the Zoom meeting the details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87585449850?pwd=cTdXWXNESjN4djB5eXdGYWZFYWxuUT09>

Meeting ID: 875 8544 9850

Passcode: 792773

This course is open to everyone, so please do publicise this in your parishes.