

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

Wednesday 7th June 2023 – 7.30 pm

At ALL SAINTS, EAST SHEEN

MINUTES

- 1 Opening prayers led by Rev Sylvie Collins-Mayo, curate at All Saints.
- 2 Hymn – Holy Holy Holy.
- 3 Introduction and welcome by Rev Alex Barrow. Rev Barrow welcomes us to his church (possibly the second newest in the Deanery after St Richard's, Ham). He also extends a welcome to recently elected new members of the Deanery Synod.
- 4 Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- 5 Anne Taylor, Director of Nursing at [Parish Nursing Ministries UK](#), talked about the role of a parish nurse and how a parish nurse can support your church congregation and local community.

What is a parish nurse?

An experienced Registered nurse (Registered to ensure a professional standard of care and experienced because the role is largely autonomous) who undertake a certificate in Parish Nursing and are employed or appointed as a volunteer by a church or Christian organisation to lead a health ministry. About two thirds of parish nurses are volunteers and almost all are part-time. They will either develop and train a team of volunteers to support their work or come alongside activities already established and led by the church.

What is a parish nurse's role?

A parish nurse promotes health and prevents ill health by being both health educator and health advisor. The NHS no longer does this role and has become a sickness service rather than a health service. A parish nurse does not replace the NHS but can help people navigate the health service and can act as a referral agent. A Parish can provide the continuity of care missing from the NHS and can advocate on behalf of individuals and communities. Parish nurses work closely with health partners and services. In each aspect of the role, the parish nurse will facilitate spiritual health – an integral part of our health.

What would a parish nursing service look like?

Some examples may include:

Health Education - walking/exercise groups, healthy eating sessions, parenting courses

Health Screening & Advice - drop-in screening sessions, individual appointment clinics

Health Support - home visits for people who are lonely, recovering from illness or needing help with long term conditions

Health Care at End of Life - home or care home visits for people at the end of life, carer support

Your parish nursing service is unique to your church's vision and the skill set of your parish nurse.

Parish nursing services will not:

Replace existing pastoral teams or clergy but can enhance the work and offer encouragement. Pastoral teams can refer people to the PN if this was appropriate.

Replicate statutory services.

Provide individual nursing care or treatment.

Force religion or faith onto service users but can offer prayer or spiritual care if the service user requests this.

A parish nursing service can be an outreach service for the community, an in-reach service for the congregation or both outreach and in-reach to serve everyone. It can be for all ages or an identified group. You may choose to focus on general health needs or a current health issue in the community. It is entirely up to your church what you want to focus on.

Why a parish nurse?

The church has a legacy of promoting health and providing wholistic care rooted in Jesus's commandment to his disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

(Luke 9 vs1–2).

Deacons in the early church would care for the health and social needs of their parishioners. This continued up until the early 1900s when deacons/deaconesses chose to move into the newly regulated health and social care professions within the secular healthcare system. Having a parish nurse brings the element of health care back to the church and allows for wholistic care of a person or community once again.

Churches are seeking to connect with their communities, and to reach people at their point of need. Evidence from parish nursing services across the country show them reaching people who are not regular worshippers. From July to September 2022, figures from 20 parish nursing services showed 891 interventions to promote health, 1236 interventions to reduce loneliness & isolation and 426 individual spiritual care interventions such as a discussion around faith or finding meaning, forgiveness facilitation, conflict resolution, offering prayer (with client or remotely).

Support from PNMUK

If your church is considering a parish nursing service, PNMUK will work with you to develop a clear vision and plan for your service. Your Regional Nurse Coordinator will support you in setting up your service, including help with recruitment if needed and providing template policies, insurance advice and sample budgets. Your Regional Nurse Coordinator will guide your parish nursing service through the accreditation process and quality assurance required. As well as initial training, PNMUK provides a support network and access to professional development for your parish nurse.

Like with any ministry, there will be costs involved in setting up a parish nursing service and ongoing costs. PNMUK ask each church or organisation to prayerfully consider all that is involved before partnering with them.

More details can be found in the PNMUK Information Pack circulated with these minutes.

PNMUK offers quarterly yearly '**Explore Online**' events, which are open to any church to attend and discover more. These are short, informal online gatherings. The next one is 7th September 2023 at either 10am or 7pm. More details in attached poster. For further dates please visit the News and Events section of [Parish Nursing Ministries UK](https://www.parishnursing.org.uk).

You can have an '**Explore More**' meeting to provide you with more information about parish nursing if you would still like to discover more before committing to anything. An 'Explore More' meeting is a virtual meeting to allow a group of people from your church/organisation to ask any questions about parish nursing and how it could fit with your vision and mission for your community.

PNMUK can be contacted via email: enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk.

Questions

Who recruits the nurses?

The Church is employing the nurse so they have to find the nurse. It could start with a nurse in the congregation who is interested. PNUMK can help with recruitment and adverts to look for someone locally.

How does a person contact a parish nurse and why would they do so?

Many organisations have nursing services. It depends on the local set up. A parish nurse needs to get to know the local area and assess what would work. Some parish nurses have regular drop-ins (one even has a market stall!). Parish nurses do not duplicate NHS

services but one church team which specialises in homeless health has a drop in at the church with NHS services on site.

How much are salaried parish nurses paid?

There are fewer salaried nurses than volunteers. The approximate salary for a paid parish nurse is currently in the region of £15 - £17 per hour.

Some stories of what parish nurses do:

One parish nurse who worked in a deprived coastal town started seeing someone who had dropped out of the health service. The nurse looked after his spiritual, mental and physical health, including the pandemic years when in some places parish nursing was the only health service available.

One parish nurse regularly attends the local farmers' market. The farmers will conduct their business early and retire to the café for a large fry-up. The parish nurse comes along with a blood pressure monitor and takes everyone's blood pressure. Quite a few of the farmers have been alerted to high blood pressure and are then able to take early action before it becomes a problem.

Parish nurses are seen on the streets on Saturday nights. One parish nurse supported a drug addict through recovery and back to the Church.

A parish nurse, who is funded through the local council housing department, has helped the homeless access opticians which is not often thought of.

6 Knife Bin Appeal

Paula Brackenridge gave some background to the appeal which was launched in 2019:

- Proposed by previous Lay Chair, Marian Mollett, as a deanery wide appeal after she had heard about a Parish in the Diocese that had had to give up its Knife Bin because it couldn't afford to fund it.
- We resolved to raise £10,000 across the deanery to fund a knife bin and 5 years of maintenance via [Word4Weapons](#).
- Generous pledges and donations from churches and a donation from deanery funds meant we were confident that this total would be reached, and we were ready to find a parish to place our knife bin.
- Progress stopped due to changes of personnel in [Southwark Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation](#) (JPIC) and Word 4 Weapons.
- In 2021 we worked with the new head of JPIC, the Archdeacons and the Metropolitan police to find the best place for our bin resulting in finding St Peter's, Walworth.
- Although promising discussions were had with St Peter's, after a year we had moved no further forward. On further consultation with JPIC, we concluded that unless the drive for the knife bin comes from within the church community, it is

quite a hard thing to place a bin with a church.

- We are now looking for an alternative project to support tackling youth violence. JPIC has recently been joined in by Jason O'Shea working one day a week specifically on tackling serious youth violence. He has personal experience and leads a preventative initiative called [Operation Forgiveness](#) which works with children in primary schools.
- Marian and Paula are meeting Jason in the next few weeks and Jason will be coming to our deanery synod in October.

7 Eco Deanery Update

Suzie O'Brien from St Luke's was welcomed to the Deanery Leadership Team as Deanery Eco Champion. Suzie's overall message was working together citing efficiencies in time and capacity.

What St Luke's have been doing:

When St Luke's started their eco journey they were aware that they needed to excite the whole congregation and asked: "What does caring for God's creation mean for you?". From the responses, they wrote their Eco Mandate. A focus during a stewardship month, engaged the congregation further. Junior Church made this a focus too and St Luke's have Eco Youth Ambassadors as well as a dedicated team. This led to their Bronze Award (nine churches in the Deanery have achieved Bronze).

The Kew Eco Fair gave an opportunity for community outreach. It was a lively energetic event that involved young and old. They learnt that local businesses were keen to get involved and to pledge their commitment to fighting climate change. Youth Ambassadors went into the schools to engage young people.

Building on the Kew Eco Fair, St Luke's are planning a series of Climate Chats with guest speakers on a range of topics and Q&A. The first one is on Thursday 15th June at St Luke's. These Climate Chats could move around the deanery.

St Luke's, in common with other churches, are working towards their Silver Award which is much harder than the Bronze.

What the Church of England and Southwark Diocese are doing:

The Church of England has a net zero carbon target of 2030. Southwark Diocese has a net zero carbon target of 2035, and a target of 2028 of becoming a Silver Eco Diocese.

Carbon Literacy Course – Southwark Diocese runs this course twice a year. Three evening sessions of two hours via Zoom. The [Carbon Literacy Trust](#) provides widely accepted training in the subject; this material has now been adapted for the Church of England.

Energy Footprint Toolkit - accessed via the Online Parish Returns System, this will tell your church what your carbon footprint is, based on the energy you use to heat and light your buildings.

Eco Church Celebration Event – held at St John’s, Waterloo in April. A celebration service attended by more than 70 churches and workshops where you had the opportunity to share what you were doing. This highlighted the importance of being able to share – what’s worked and what’s not worked. Can we do this as a Deanery?

- There is a Creation Care WhatsApp group please join (email deanerysynod@gmail.com).
- We would like to hold quarterly Webinars or Zoom meetings with speakers. We will set a date soon and hope to invite Jack Edwards (Diocesan Environmental Officer) and Ian Christie (from Christ Church, West Wimbledon and on Environment Advisory Team, Diocese of Southwark).

Rev Alex Barrow noted that it was Bishop Martin Gainsborough who proposed the General Synod motion bringing forward the net-zero CO2 target to 2030.

Rev Barrow also raised a point about the heating of large church buildings carbon neutrally. The problem being not just one of money (there are many grants available) but of lack of effective alternatives to gas boilers and know-how. A recent energy audit of All Saints, East Sheen, had not come up with credible solutions.

Paula Brackenridge agreed to raise a question at the next Diocesan Synod in July.

8 Area Dean’s Notices

Welcome to Rev Derrick Thompson, new chaplain of Hickey’s Almshouses.

Rev Matthew Watts (curate at St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake) will be ordained priest on 1st July at All Saints, Kingston.

Dr Hannah Swithinbank will be ordained deacon on 24th June at Southwark Cathedral and will then join as a full time assistant curate.

The Revd Joe Moore will be licensed as the new Team Vicar of St John the Divine by the Bishop of Kingston on Wednesday 19 July.

9 The meeting closed with the Grace.

The next meeting of the Deanery Synod will be on

Tuesday 3rd October 2023 – St Michael and All Angels, Barnes

EXPLORE ONLINE

with us on

7th September 2023

"Really practical and gave me the opportunity to ask all the questions which were brought up through the videos.

Great session."



"Thank you for this evening it has been very insightful and inspiring. I have learnt so much and been blown away by the amazing powerful videos you have shared – so impactful and demonstrated the difference you are making."

Explore what parish nursing could offer to your local community by joining a 1 hour session with us on Zoom.

Hosted by our Regional Nurse Coordinator Dawn Stephens with input from parish nursing services around the country, find out what parish nursing is about and how it works.

**Free sessions will be hosted at 10am and 7pm.
Just choose a time that is convenient for you then ask for the
zoom link at enquiries@parishnursing.org.uk**

We look forward to seeing you soon.