

Report to the APCM on Deanery Synod activities for the year to 31/12/21

Deanery Synod is the layer of governance immediately above parish level. The Wimbledon Parish lies within the Deanery of Merton.

1. Meeting held on January 21st 2021 (held remotely via Zoom)

Main focus: i) New Deanery governance rules ii) Group discussions on the different church approaches and activities during 2020 across the deanery.

i) New governance procedures were explained affecting deaneries. The Area Dean, Revd Rachel Taylor explained that the hope behind the Model Rules was that deaneries will become model centres of mission for their areas. The main change was in the structure of the Standing Committee, usually voted in by the Deanery Synod; there would now be a new Deanery Leadership Team. Since the New Deanery Model rules had already been accepted by Diocesan Synod, and it remained only for the Deanery Synod to adopt them. An anonymous vote was held in the meeting which approved the adoption of these new rules.

Neal Harvey's report on the previous Diocesan Synod meeting was presented.

ii) The Synod then split into break out groups for discussion of the various Christmas activities of the deanery churches. The meeting finished with Compline.

2. Meeting held on 19th May 2021 (held remotely by Zoom.)

Main items: i) Deanery Leadership Team for Merton. ii) the Diocesan Anti Racism Charter. iii) Lay chair vacancy

i) Following adoption of the Rules in the previous meeting, the Area Dean sought permission to form a Deanery Leadership Team. This was voted on and agreed. Rev Rachel

ii) There was a presentation on The Southwark Diocese Anti-Racism Charter, by The Ven. Dr Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon Anti-Racism Charter.

Two issues on terminology were stressed:

- The use of UKME (UK Minority ethnic) was urged rather than BAME.
- Equity and Equality are different - diversity is important to recognise.

The Panorama programme investigating racism in the Church of England, was highlighted and the Archdeacon emphasised that UKME people need supporting in lay roles in order to move into clergy and clergy leadership roles. The discussion that followed raised various issues, including how to guard against tokensim, how to promote the charter in diocesan schools, and highlighted the fact that being non-racist and being anti-racist are not the same. The Archdeacon stressed the need to be activity working against racism.

iii) Martin Osborn, the Synod Lay Chair, stated that he would not be re-standing for another term. Nominations would be sought for a new Lay Chairperson and synod lay members were asked to prayerfully consider this for the next meeting.

He reminded the members present that Elections for Diocesan Synod were to take place before the 15th of July

The meeting closed with Compline.

3. Meeting held on 8th July 2021 (held remotely by zoom)

Main items: i) Diocesan Synod election results ii) presentation on Westminster Drug Project (WPD) iii) Lay Chair nominations.

i) Results of the elections to Diocesan Synod were given: 3 clergy and 2 lay members of the deanery had been elected. Since Deanery is entitled to elect 6 members of laity and 6 clergy, it was noted that there were still vacancies for Diocesan Synod from the deanery.

ii) Helen O'Connor from WPD Merton addressed the meeting. The charity runs services for those affected by alcohol and substance use across the borough of Merton. It also provides services for those needing assistance in areas such as employability, mental health, sexual health, stopping smoking, and issues affecting young people. Helen set out the services that were available, and how to access them. She highlighted the work done during the Covid-19 endemic. She stated that leaflets about the services can be obtained from the Synod secretary Julie Ashbee, should any church wish to make them available. The charity can also be contacted by email: info.merton@wdp.org.uk.

iii) Lay Chair nominations: Martin Osborn stood down as Lay chair at this meeting. It was stated that no nominations had been received for a new Lay Chairperson.

The meeting closed with Compline.

4. Meeting held on 13th October 2021 at Mitcham Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul. (Meeting was held in person)

Main items: i) Lay Chair vacancy. ii) Talk on Environmental Care and Sustainability.

i) The Area Dean noted that again she had received no nominations for the vacancy of Lay Chair. She expressed serious concern and explained that Deanery Synod needed to have a Lay Chair and that if no nominations were received then a Chair would have to be sought from another deanery.

ii) Talk was given by Ian Christie, Southwark Diocese Area Environmental Advisor for the Kingston Episcopal Area, and senior lecturer in sustainable development at Surrey University.

He opened by saying current trajectory of the world was, "We inherited a garden and could leave a desert".

Ian gave two reasons why we should care about the environment, namely Love for God and Love for our neighbour.

He highlighted three things to hold in mind, and six practical actions that could be taken by individuals. He referred members of synod to the website: www.takethejump.org

He urged the members to encourage their deanery churches to grow awareness, to act together on becoming eco-church teams, to engage politically and set examples of good practice locally.

Lively group discussions were held on sustainability, what actions churches were already taking (if any) and individual responses to the crisis of the environment and climate change.

Compline was said and sung together to end the meeting.

Note on membership

- All licensed clergy in the Parish are automatically members of the synod.
- Your lay representatives currently serving are:

St Mark's: P Thorvaldsen, D Jennings.

St John's: S Carter-Esdale, C Jolly.

St Matthew's: A Merriman.

St Mary's: E Lambert. N Harvey (Neal also serves on Diocesan Synod).

S Carter- Esdale, Deanery Synod representative, 17th April 2022

(This is a report summary. Full reports on each meeting have been submitted previously to the PCC.)