



The Diocese of
Southwark
Reigate Deanery

- ❖ *Connecting Local Churches*
- ❖ *Christ Centred Disciples*
- ❖ *Creative in Mission*

Deanery News and Updates

Diocesan Synod Elections

Reigate Deanery will shortly be holding elections for representatives from within the Deanery to sit on the Diocesan Synod. We will be seeking to elect 6 Laity representatives and 5 Clergy representatives, from within the Deanery.

The new elected synod will hold office for a term of three years beginning from 1st August 2021. The timetable for Reigate Deanery nominations and elections is as follows:

Reigate Deanery Election Timetable	
Diocesan Synod Nomination Period (14 days)	19 May – 02 June 2021
Diocesan Synod Election Period (14 Days)	03 – 17 June 2021
Election announcement at Deanery Synod	23 June 2021

Nominees do NOT have to be current Deanery Synod representatives but can be any church member from Parishes within Reigate Deanery. Following their election on to Diocesan Synod, representatives will then automatically become a member of the Deanery Synod.

We encourage you to publish this information in your church newsletters and Parish News, to ensure it reaches anyone who feels called to this role.

[A leaflet has been produced with information on the Diocesan Synod elections, which can be downloaded by clicking anywhere in this paragraph.](#)

You can find further information on the Diocesan Synod elections by visiting the following website:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/who-we-are/governance-synods/diocesan-synod-elections/>

A nomination paper will be circulated with this newsletter.

For further information on the election, please contact the Deanery Secretary (Judith O'Connell): judith@stlukesreigate.org.uk

Living in Love & Faith (LLF)



Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage are being reviewed as part of the “Living in Love & Faith” (LLF) review.

Within Reigate Deanery, this is something we will be discussing further over the coming weeks and months.

In January 2021, Right Reverend Jonathan Clark, Bishop of Croydon wrote:

“This year, the Church is inviting us all to join in the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) project.

Some of you will be very well aware that the Church has been wrestling for years with questions about sexuality, gender and relationships. LLF comes out of those discussions, but the aim is to help the Church think about them more widely and deeply, through asking questions such as:

- ✚ **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?**

These are big questions! And they are about much more than Church law. We are all invited into a process of learning, reflecting, speaking and listening which I hope will deepen our understanding of the faith we share, and strengthen us as the body of Christ together, united in one mission which is expressed through our diversity.

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In this Diocese, we are encouraging everyone to participate as they feel able in that conversation. Some parishes and other groups have already begun to study and reflect on the resources the church has produced.

You can find them at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>

There are three facilitators who are going to be helping with conversations on this subject within Reigate Deanery. We are grateful for their support and guidance. Thanks to:

Sorel Parkes, Rev. Nigel Griffiths & Rev. Helen Fraser

Everyone will be invited to participate in discussions on this topic in the near future.

ECO Church

Leslie Jackson (*Reigate Deanery, Lay Chair*) is putting together a group of like-minded representatives within the Deanery to champion and share the many ECO initiatives that are happening locally. If you would like to be a part of this, please email Leslie on:



leslie.jackson3@ntlworld.com

Some key areas they will be focusing on are:

- ✦ Managing the land, flora and fauna around our church buildings; thinking about nature trails, bird boxes, allotments, wildflowers, 'no mow May' and composting?
- ✦ How can we be a witness to our local community by displaying our love for God's Creation? Through the choices we make when printing documents, choosing a utility company and the way we heat our buildings.

The Diocese is holding an Eco Church Surgery – Drop-In Monthly Zoom Meeting on the last Monday of the month (from 1 – 1.45pm).

If you have any questions about Eco Church or would like to chat informally about environmental initiatives in your church or home, or for a link to the monthly drop-in. please email: laura.baggaley@southwark.anglican.org

Working towards an Eco Deanery

There are lots of resources on the Southwark website, try these for starters!

<https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/justice-peace-and-integrity-of-creation/environment/>

<https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Deaneries-Becoming-an-Eco-Deanery.pdf>

Anti-Racism Charter (UKME)

The Southwark Anti-Racism Charter was unanimously approved by Diocesan Synod on 13 March 2021.

[To read a copy of the Charter, please click here.](#)

<https://southwark.anglican.org/anti-racism-charter>

Within Reigate Deanery there is work underway to ensure we are all taking further steps towards support of all our brothers and sisters from all walks of life.

Finances

Thank you to all churches and Parishes who may have contributed to Deanery work over the last few difficult months.

We will not be requesting contributions this calendar year but thank you for your mindful thoughts and prayers in support of Deanery work over the coming year.

Closing from the Area Dean

I am excited and encouraged about our mission and ministry that has been and is to come. As disciples of Christ, let us pray and commit to follow Him in all we do.

Father God, we thank you for your blessing upon us and the Kingdom work done in Reigate Deanery. May we continue to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith as we live and share the Good News of your saving power and grace.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Anita

If you have any questions, queries or suggestions regarding the work of Reigate Deanery, please contact Anita Colpus (Area Dean) on: vicar@stlukesreigate.org.uk

