



Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting Minutes

Date:	Tuesday 14 March 2023, 8pm		
Venue:	St Mary's Church Reigate		
Meeting Chair:	Leslie Jackson (Lay Chair)/ Rev Martin Colton (Area Dean)		
Note Taker/Secretary:	Alexia Hartman (reigatedeanery@gmail.com)		
Attendees:	48	Apologies:	24

	ITEM	Action
1	Welcome Worship & Prayer by Leslie Jackson / Rev Richard Wilson (St Mary's Church) / Josh Brown (St Mary's Church)	
2	<p>Review of Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held on Thursday 20 October 2023 at St Mark's Church Hall, Reigate.</p> <p>Will be signed by Martin as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Mothers' Union (Hilary Richardson)</u></p> <p>Hilary attended a Mothers' Union Diocesan Council meeting where Diocesan Trustees asked for packs to be distributed to all the parishes in the diocese. Hilary will action this after the meeting. Mothers' Union intend on giving a presentation at the June Deanery Synod.</p> <p>The local Southwark Mothers' Union AFIA representative is: Sally Steele. Email: afia.southwarkmu@gmail.com</p> <p>https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/mothers-union/</p>	HR
3	<p>How are we loving out the Diocesan Vision in our own contextualised way?</p> <p>Attendees were asked to split into 4/5 groups ensuring different parishes were represented in each group. They were given circa 20 minutes to discuss the three main points of the vision statement: 1) <i>Walking</i> with Jesus and getting to know Him better as we journey on 2) <i>Welcoming all</i>, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being Church and 3) <i>Growing</i> in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom.</p> <p>https://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/who-we-are/southwark-vision/</p> <p><i>Welcome all</i> - St Matthew's Foodbank which included the importance of the work carried out by foodbanks, deanery wide. The Ukraine Hub at St Mary's Church offers support locally and to families in surrounding areas in need.</p> <p><i>Walking</i> - Pilgrimage to Canterbury. Christ the King Church in Salfords host a walk every Saturday for people to come together. Outdoor Church is held at a church in the deanery on the first Saturday every month.</p> <p><i>Growing</i> - There has been an increase in baptisms from refugees which have moved to the parish – faithfully and consistently encouraging wider links. The introduction of Zoom during lockdown saw online attendance increase. This has helped keep people connected to church. Provide interest with various resources, including the introduction of different style</p>	



	of prayer and courses. Social church to include toddler care. Concern for numbers was raised for isolated churches.	
4	<p>Deanery Updates</p> <p><u>Welcare (Chris Elliot)</u></p> <p>Welcare is a charity working with families and children up to the age of 13 in South London and East Surrey. They are dependent upon grants, and donations (money) always helpful.</p> <p>Chris thanked all churches for their continued support. He asked for our prayers as Welcare are financially dependent on Surrey County Council funding which they are hoping to renew.</p> <p>Welcare are recruiting for a new Head of Practice role. Ideally someone who is a qualified social worker with experience with families and children.</p> <p>Please contact Chris for further information on this role: chair@welcare.org</p> <p>For further information, visit the website: https://welcare.org/</p> <p><u>RASJF (Chris Elliot)</u></p> <p>Chris noted again that Modern Slavery is “Right Here, Right Now”, so all should be aware and vigilant.</p> <p>Thank you to all churches that have completed the Anti-Slavery pledge. To date there have been 20 responses.</p> <p>For further info on this and other RASJF work, visit: https://reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasjf</p> <p>Date for diaries: Saturday 21st October, St Mary’s Church in Guilford</p> <p><i>Please get in touch with Chris if you would like him to speak to your congregation after a Sunday service regarding Welcare and/or RASJF.</i></p> <p><u>Deanery Leadership Team (DLT)</u></p> <p>Please speak to Martin if you are interested joining the team. Both clergy and lay vacancies are available.</p> <p><u>Children & Young People</u></p> <p>Jo from St John’s sends her apologies. Re-iterated that success is dependent on regular meetings with champions from each church supporting each other.</p> <p>Suggested to book Duggie Dug Dug for the children and families in the Deanery.</p> <p>https://www.duggiedugdug.org/</p> <p><u>Thy Kingdom Come</u></p> <p>Starting to plan for 2024. The Deanery are hoping to extend the invitation to other churches.</p>	MC
5	<p>Finance Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounts to be examined before the next Deanery Synod Meeting. • Fiona will be in touch imminently with parishes regarding 2024 contributions. 	
6	Notices (including AOB raised at the meeting)	



Clergy Updates / Parishes in vacancy

- St. Margaret's, Chipstead – Hannah Gordon will be instituted and inducted as Rector on Tuesday 30th May 2023. Details to follow.
- St Mary's, Reigate – Associate Vicar Ben Forbes will be joining St Mary's in July.
- Parishes in vacancy:
 - Charlwood/Sidlow Bridge – housing issue is holding the procedure up. To be linked with Lead Chaplain at Gatwick
 - Betchworth & Buckland - Advertising in Church Times. Hoping to interview in April.
 - Merstham Team: Interviewing for Team Rector imminent

Safeguarding Training for PCC

Requirement that all PCC members (and church roles) complete relevant Safeguarding courses. As a minimum requirement, PCC members need to complete both the Basic Awareness (C0) and the Foundation (C1) online courses. The Diocese is offering face-to-face training again.

To check what level of training church members are required to complete, please visit the website: <https://southwark.anglican.org/safeguarding/training>

Deanery to host on courses for collective in-person training. Dates to be circulated soon.

Quiet Day

Will be circulating details for next year.

Diocesan Synod Meeting Update

A meeting of the Diocesan Synod was held on Saturday 11 March at St Peter's in Battersea.

Topics on the Agenda included Carbon Net Zero Action Plan, Battersea Deanery Synod Motion on Ethical Investment and divestment from Fossil Fuels. This was started and adjourned to a future Synod to await the publication in the Summer of new guidelines on Ethical Investments from the National Church.

Environment

The Energy Footprint Tool allows churches to enter their utility bills and find out their 'carbon footprint'.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment/energy-footprint-tool>

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

With the Rev'd Chris and Rev'd Martin Colton. Ten days based in Galilee and Jerusalem from 16 – 25 January 2024. All are welcome.

Rev'd Martin Colton: vicar@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Rev'd Chris Colton: vicar@parishofkingswood.org.uk

AOB

Fr Martin thanked everyone who is stepping down for their hard work and efforts. He discussed the importance of encouraging new members to join the Deanery.

A reminder for APCM dates with results of elections to be forwarded on so that accurate and updated records can be kept.

MC

MC/CC



7	<i>Dates of Future Meetings in 2023</i> Wednesday 21 st June 2023 (Christ The King, Salfords) Thursday 12 th October 2023 (St John's, Redhill)	
8	Meeting Closed in Prayer – Leslie Jackson	