



Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting Minutes

Date:	Thursday 16 October 2025, 7.30pm		
Venue:	St Bartholomew's, Horley, RH6 8AB		
Meeting Chair:	Rev Martin Colton (Area Dean)		
Note Taker/Secretary:	Alexia Hartman (reigatedeanery@gmail.com)		
Attendees:	46	Apologies:	25

	ITEM	Action
1	Welcome & Opening Worship by Rev Kerry Evans / Rev Vic Stone	
2	Review of Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held on 2 nd July 2025 at St Peter's Woodmansterne. Will be signed by Martin as an accurate record of the meeting.	Martin Colton
3	<p>Deanery Updates (written reports):</p> <p><u>Diocesan Synod</u> Written report shared before meeting.</p> <p><u>General Synod</u> Written report shared before meeting.</p> <p><u>Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF)</u> If anyone has any questions or would like a talk on modern slavery please email Chris Elliot at rasocialjustice@gmail.com For further info on this and other RASJF work, visit: https://reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasjf Any questions to ask – None raised</p> <p><u>Clergy Updates / Parishes in vacancy</u></p> <p>Leadership - New Archdeacon of Reigate has been announced, The Revd Dr Geoff Dumbreck. Licensing will take place on 11 January in the Cathedral. We will welcome him to the July 2026 Synod meeting next year.</p> <p>Vacancies & Appointments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish of Kingswood: vacant • Church of the Good Shepard, Tadworth: vacant, interviews scheduled soon • Horley Team: Team Vicar vacancy with Rev Naomi Ngururi leaving 	<p style="text-align: center;">Hannah Gordon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paul Waddell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Martin Colton</p>
4	<p>Finance</p> <p>Chris Elliott raised at the last meeting (which was discussed at DLT) the issue of restricted funds and whether they could be released for other projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restricted funds must be used for their original purpose or returned to original donors. - Restrictions can sometimes be reviewed only in limited cases; the process takes time. 	Fiona Hawker



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Work Fund – dipped into occasionally; ongoing matter. - LunchBox Project – never started. - Thy Kingdom Come – deanery-wide project; funds can be used in individual parishes if carrying deanery badge. 	
5	<p>Gatwick Airport Chaplaincy</p> <p><u>Role and Overview</u> Rev Sue marked two years as Gatwick Airport Chaplain. She supports the spiritual and pastoral needs of passengers and staff across the airport.</p> <p><u>Chaplaincy Spaces and Team</u> There are prayer and chapel spaces in both terminals, used by people of all faiths. A team of six chaplains provides support, with strong engagement from the Muslim community.</p> <p><u>Workplace Focus</u> Much of the work is with airport staff, including the Fire Service and Control Tower, offering pastoral care around pressure, trauma, and everyday challenges.</p> <p><u>Key Responsibilities</u> Running the chaplaincy, coordinating volunteers, parish work, supporting vulnerable passengers, working with modern slavery teams, police, and international chaplaincy networks. Trained in mental health first aid and trauma debriefing.</p> <p><u>Passenger and Staff Support</u> Pastoral care includes supporting those affected by emergencies, deaths on flights, and high numbers of CPR incidents. Also involved in memorials and family support.</p> <p><u>Emergency Response</u> Active in emergency situations and regular simulated air-crash exercises.</p> <p>If you are interested in volunteering, you can contact Rev Sue directly.</p>	Sue Lepp
6	<p>Refreshments</p>	
7	<p>Horley and surrounding area: joys, challenges, opportunities</p> <p><u>Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horley lies between Surrey and Sussex. • Three Anglican churches: St Wilfrid’s, St Bartholomew’s, St Francis. • Close working relationship with Rev Sue Lepp. • Mix of green space, farmland, care homes and active community centres. • Local population split between Christian, no-religion and other faiths. <p><u>Joys</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant church life with committed congregations across all three churches. • Strong crossover and joint events (eg. Harvest Barn Dance). • Growing youth work: Friday youth group and Youth Café Church with encouraging attendance. • Positive ecumenical relationships through churches for Horley. • Clergy are visible and invited to civic and community events. • Strong lay leadership. 	Horley Team



- High community engagement: St George's Day, Carnival, Christmas, Remembrance.
- Active involvement with the Food Bank and a flourishing community garden run with local volunteers.
- Visitors often come into churches between flights.
- New housing developments bringing young families; all-age services popular.
- Successful outreach events such as the Farm Nativity.

Challenges

- Planned new developments around Meath Green.
- Eight schools but only one secondary with no sixth form.
- Keeping young people connected beyond Youth Café.
- Three buildings across two parishes, including Grade I listed structures, require ongoing upkeep.
- Financial pressures, limited disposable income, and ongoing building costs.
- Staffing changes affecting continuity; parish size is geographically large.
- Population of Horley (approx. 30,000) extends well beyond parish boundaries.
- Need for fresh strategy to reach younger generations and share the gospel.
- Heavy clergy workload, with potential future staffing gaps.
- Cost-of-living pressures affecting many families.

Opportunities

- Outreach activities: school decoration projects, new bellringers, chess clubs, community initiatives.
- Strong links with schools and care homes.
- Active presence at civic events, parades, crib services.
- Good relationship with the Royal British Legion.
- Toddler groups in all three churches are strong and lead to baptism conversations.
- Running the Magnify course with Holy Trinity, supporting estates ministry and growing local leaders. For further details, see link below.
 - Link: https://southwark.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2025/10/Bridge-Oct-2025-website.pdf
- Farm Nativity organised collaboratively and widely publicised through Facebook, WhatsApp groups, flyers, and local partnerships.

Worship and Team Ministry

- Variety of worship styles across the three churches allows people to attend where they feel most comfortable.
- All churches welcome children freely.
- Balance of communion, family services, and all-age worship ensures broad engagement.

Quiet Day

Saturday 28 March

Location: St Margaret's, Chipstead

Led by the Dean of Southwark, The Very Reverend Dr. Mark Oakley.

More details in due course.



	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Fr Martin Colton encouraged everyone to pray for one another, noting that we now have a clearer understanding of each other's contexts. He asked that we continue to pray for our shared work as we walk alongside our communities.</p> <p>Anyone willing to host a future meeting is invited to speak with Fr Martin or Alexia, as we are exploring additional venues.</p> <p>Future discussion topics are being developed, and further details will be circulated in due course.</p>	
8	Closing Worship	
8	<p><i>Dates of Future Meetings in 2026</i></p> <p>Tuesday 3rd March 2026 (venue – tbc)</p> <p>Wednesday 1st July 2026 (venue – tbc)</p> <p>Thursday 15th October 2026 (venue – tbc)</p>	