



Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting Minutes

Date:	Wednesday 2 July 2025, 7.30pm		
Venue:	St Peter's Church, Woodmersterne		
Meeting Chair:	Rev Martin Colton (Area Dean) / Leslie Jackson		
Note Taker/Secretary:	Alexia Hartman (reigatedeanery@gmail.com)		
Attendees:	35	Apologies:	32

	ITEM	Action
1	Welcome & Opening Worship by Rev Martin Colton (St Mark's Church)	
2	<p>Review of Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held on 11th March 2025 on Zoom.</p> <p>The community event organised with Simon's Free Range Egg Farm was at Westvale Park and not Westfield Park.</p> <p>Will be signed by Martin as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	Martin Colton
3	<p>Deanery Updates (written reports):</p> <p><u>Diocesan 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</p> <p>For further info on this and other RASJF work, visit: https://reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasif</p> <p><u>Quiet Day Wychcroft 12 April 2025</u> - It was reported that the day was successful. - The next Quiet Day will be on 28 March where The Very Reverend Dr Mark Oakley, Dean of Southwark as guest speaker.</p> <p><u>Clergy Updates / Parishes in vacancy</u> Consecration & Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Venerable Moira Astin has been consecrated as Bishop of Crediton. Best wishes sent after nearly 9 years as Archdeacon. • The Venerable Greg Prior handling legal matters. • Rev Helen Cook will be acting as first point of contact in interim. • Area Dean, Rev Martin Colton has also taken on some responsibilities. • Rev Hannah Gordon appointed Assistant Area Dean and also joined the Diocesan Leadership Team (DLT). <p>Vacancies & Appointments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish of Kingswood: search continues, interviews scheduled soon. • Church of the Good Shepard, Tadworth: Rev Tim Astin's last service to be held on 14 September. 	<p>Hannah Gordon</p> <p>Chris Elliot</p> <p>Leslie Jackson</p> <p>Martin Colton</p>



	<p>Parish Structures</p> <p>United Benefices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Parish of Kingswood with the Church of the Good Shepard Tadworth will remain separate parishes.St John, Redhill with Christ the King, Salfords - consultation period underway; proposal for shared incumbent and assistant clergy. <p>Ordinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">St Mary's, Reigate: ordinations on Saturday 5 July 2025 – Rev Vic Stone and Rev Paul Holden.	
4	<p>Finance</p> <p>The Quiet day was subsidised by the Deanery.</p> <p>Funds held by the Deanery are just over £11 000, with £5 200 belonging to Deanery Synod and the rest held in restricted funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">£3 300 – Youth Fund£2 000 split across Arch Deaconry Conference, Thy Kingdom Come and healing services. <p>More precise figures will be shared at the next meeting.</p>	Fiona Hawker
5	<p>Introduction to “School Days – the best days of your life”</p> <p>During tea and coffee break attendees were asked to share their school photograph with others.</p> <p>What does education look like today and role of faith in schools.</p> <p>When was the last time you were in a classroom?</p> <p>Were your ‘school days the best days of your life?</p> <p>What is your perception of schools today?</p>	Alison Elson
6	<p>Refreshments</p>	
7	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Francis Davis – Headteacher, Reigate Parish</p> <p>Deborah Jackson – Teacher with experience across various age groups</p> <p>Ali Foulkes – Anglican Chaplin at St Bede’s School, Redhill</p> <p>A Day in the Life</p> <p>Francis (Headteacher)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Leadership, budgets, recruitment, strategic planning with governors.Community links, staff development, gate/lunch duties, tours.Not a teaching head but focused on enabling children to grow into confident, articulate, resilient adults.	Alison Elson



Deborah (Teacher)

- 15 years as TA, teacher, deputy head.
- Inclusion & safeguarding lead.
- Diary: morning briefings, welcoming pupils by name, covering classes, safeguarding checks, tech for assemblies, agency visits, minibus driving, running inset, small group teaching.

Ali (Chaplain)

- Works with Debbie.
- Anglican Chaplain at St Bede's (2000 pupils, 200 staff).
- Weekly worship planning, pastoral care, courses (bereavement, identity), Christian Union.
- Collaboration across denominations.

Challenges & Opportunities

- **Deborah:** daily challenges (SEND, tribunals, parent conflict). Need to keep focus on learning and depend on God's grace. Opportunity to show unconditional love.
- **Ali:** limited time/space, large numbers. Yet opportunities for prayer and faith exploration are "endless".
- **Francis:** teacher workload, funding pressures, mental health post-Covid. Challenge of teacher retention.

Opportunity: shaping young lives is a privilege with God's strength.

Role of Churches in Supporting Schools

- **Ali:** sowing seeds; prayer for students, staff, and workload; clergy presence; volunteers at school.
- **Francis:** prayer; reflect positively about teachers; volunteer (governors, helpers).
- **Deborah:** be proactive and collaborative; pray for unity and events; innovate in how churches support; volunteers (reading, library, transport); clergy to take interest.

General: clergy welcome to contact schools and offer Christian presence.

Curriculum & RE

- **Deborah:** more time/space for teachers; less prescriptive; more hands-on learning.
- **Francis:** bound by National Curriculum but can bring learning to life.
- **Ali:** RE at St Bede's is strong; ethics, youth Alpha in Year 8, opportunities to engage with God.

RE: Surrey has strong syllabus; Church of England – weekly RE (2/3 Christianity, plus other faiths).

Personal Reflections

- **Francis:** importance of balance between school life and home life.
- **Deborah:** curriculum needs more flexibility for individual learning.
- **All:** Schools face many challenges but also opportunities to shape lives with faith, prayer, and community partnership.

Churches are encouraged to ensure their involvement with schools is practical, rooted in prayer and sustained over time otherwise it risks have little real impact.



8	Closing Worship	Hannah Gordon
8	<i>Dates of Future Meetings in 2025</i> Thursday 16 th October 2025 - St Bartholomew's, Horley Tuesday 3rd March 2026 (venue – tbc) Wednesday 1st July 2026 (venue – tbc)	