

## **Bromley Deanery Synod Report, 2004**

This was the last year of the Synod, which is appointed for 3 years.

In 2004 a mission statement was adopted which, apart from expressing the Christian message, stressed the need for the churches to support each other. The 'coupling' of parishes within the Deanery took place. The selection was impartial and BPC was coupled with the Church of St. John's.

At meetings of the Synod during the year, there was a presentation on the need to include children in church life, with participation in the services and an acceptance that children's views should always be sought. Your representatives felt that our Church shared these policies. At the same meeting we had an impassioned speech from the Vicar of Christ Church, Chislehurst opposing the title (Bishop Justus) for the new Church of England school and a request for the Synod to oppose it. Our own Vicar said that the title was now a fait accompli and that to ask the Synod to oppose it without an opportunity to consult congregations was wrong. Luckily the Synod agreed with him.

Other meetings were less colourful, with presentations on disability discrimination and the need to repair family life, where broken marriages were causing so much distress and problems for the children.

The Synod continued its warm relations with those of other denominations and other faiths.

The Synod for the next three years will commence in the summer of 2005 after members of the House of Laity are elected at their respective APCMs.

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