

Report on Deanery Synod

For Annual Parochial Church Meeting in April, 2018

1. This report covers two meetings of the Deanery Synod, that held at St Nicholas's, Chislehurst on Wednesday, 10th May 2017, and that held at St Mary's, Hayes on Thursday 5 October 2017. I was unable to attend the meeting on 10th May, because I was on holiday.
2. Copies of the minutes of both meetings are in the APCM folders. In this report, I will refer to the matters that seem to me to be the most significant.
3. The meeting on 10th May was the first one of a new Synod, so much time was taken up by introductions, elections, and an explanation of the role of Deanery Synod. There was then a discussion of ways in which the different churches could co-operate in Mission. The discussion made use of the 2018 leaflet "Hope".
4. The Area Dean then gave a summary of past and future business. In particular he described the progress being made under the headings of Mission Action Planning and Taking Funerals Seriously. The Mission Action Planning has made use of pie charts to show the areas of strength in each parish.
5. The business of the meeting concluded with a report from the Treasurer, that the finances were OK, and a report from Rev Roger Bristow that the process of reconstituting the Diocesan Board of Education was taking longer than expected. The meeting ended with the grace, at 21.30, and refreshments followed.
6. The next meeting of the Deanery Synod, that on 5th October, was mostly concerned with Dementia, and the proposed Anna Chaplaincy (which has now been established). The meeting had the benefit of hearing two visiting speakers, Mrs Julia Burton Jones and Mrs Judith West.

7. Mrs Burton-Jones is the Diocesan Dementia Specialist and Projects Officer. She spoke about Dementia Friends and Dementia Friendly Churches, and the Diocesan strategy for ministry to people with dementia.
8. Mrs West is the Chair of Bromley Dementia Hub. She gave an explanation of dementia, its different types, and its stages. She described the Chislehurst Dementia Café, and what it does.
9. Having heard these two speakers, the meeting formally called upon the Diocesan Synod to promote the concept of becoming a 'Dementia Friendly Diocese; to engage with 'Anna Chaplaincy' and 'the Gift of Years' through every Deanery; and to put forward a similar motion to General Synod.
10. The meeting then dealt with a number of other matters, much more briefly. The are minuted under the headings of Communications, Training, Refugee Crisis, the Treasurer's Report (there was nothing for him to report), Diocesan Board of Education, and Any Other Business. For the purposes of this report, only two need to be dealt with further. Under Communications, Rev Alan Keeler agreed to set up a meeting to discuss the creation of a Deanery Facebook Page. Under Any Other Business, a young Christian communicator, comedian and magician, Tom Elliott, was mentioned. If any church is interested in engaging his services, they are invited to telephone 07716 997153. The meeting ended at 21.30, with light refreshments.
11. As already indicated, this report is not an exhaustive account of the meetings on 10 May and 5 October. Copies of the full minutes are in the APCM folders. If any readers of this report wish for more detail, they are referred to those minutes.

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