



Runnymede Deanery

Diocese of Guildford

*Addlestone, Chertsey, Egham, Egham Hythe, Englefield Green,
Lyne and Longcross, New Haw, Ottershaw, Thorpe, Virginia Water
St Peter's Hospital, Royal Holloway University of London*

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*****NEWS BULLETIN NEWS BULLETIN NEWS BULLETIN*****

Booking Now Open for 17th National Deanery Conference

You can book now at <https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/> for the event held 9 – 11 October 2020 at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick/Derbyshire. Topic will be “Deaneries in Action – Getting Things Done”. With a focus on Social Justice and engaging with youth and young people the conference will provide practical advice and examples to enable deaneries to step up to these challenges.

Encouraging Deanery Grant Reports

On the far reaching impacts of small grants/investments!

“The annual Christmas Market was held in New Haw Broadway on Saturday November 23rd, which was a very wet and dark afternoon, but our church stalls were protected by borrowed gazebos and marquees, and the school choirs and band performed regardless of the weather. People arrived in good spirits, looking forward to the arrival of Father Christmas and the lights being switched on by the Mayor. The Library was full to bursting and the mulled wine ran out!

Our Vicar Andy had purchased 50 diaries from the Christian bookshop in Woking, with varied cover designs, using the Runnymede Deanery Grant. Our stall was next to the cuddly toys, which proved an attraction to families. Initially, we offered adults a diary and children a sticker book or Christmas story bauble book, depending on their age. The reactions were usually disbelief that we were offering something for free, followed by absolute delight. One lady insisted on giving £1, which boosted the soft toy stall money. As people sheltered from the rain under the canopy, we engaged them further by offering a card outlining Christmas services and, depending on their reactions, an invitation to the forthcoming Alpha course.

Most people were happy to chat about Church, with one couple asking where it was, its denomination and the service times. Some young people were keen to talk about Alpha and returned with friends later. One young boy was looking for a present for his mother and was sure she would like a diary! Some children took the bauble books and returned with their parents, wondering whether they could ask for a diary, too! Naturally, we agreed.

I hope and pray that during 2020, people around New Haw will look at their diaries and remember the cheerfulness of the giver in the rain...and perhaps explore further the joy of our faith.”

Linda Salt, Churchwarden All Saints' Church, New Haw

“Everybody involved with Songs & Stories Toddler and Carers group was delighted about the successful application for one of the two Deanery Grants offered last September. There was a real sense of excitement the morning we announced it to the families and much conversation about what the money should be spent on. We consulted with those adults who had been attending Songs & Stories for a while as to what new toys or activities they would like to see made available for their children, and then offered a vote for up to four items for our final decision on what to buy.

Replacing some sit and ride toys was high on the list of wants. Although the old ones were quite safe some of them had become faded and tired looking. We now have two shiny new ones! The first is a pirate ship in full sail and all the children love it. The other is a sturdy orange and yellow rhino. The children really enjoy trying to catch the hoops which came with it on the rhino's horn – great for their hand eye co-ordination.

Also, the group has never had a proper doll's cot before, using a small plastic box to create a bed in our home corner, so it was not surprising that this suggestion was next on the voted list. The new doll's rocking crib with bedding has been a hit as "mums and dads" take it in turns to put the "babies" to bed and rock them to sleep.

Toys that entertain but also teach skills were highlighted, too. Puzzles are particularly popular with our children as they like to be able to play and talk together with their parents which encourages language development and fine motor control. Our new wooden latch & key and dressing skills puzzles are challenging for little fingers but encourage perseverance and there is nothing more joyful than the smile of achievement when at last the door is opened or the button done up.

The provision of the new toys has been appreciated so much by the children and their parents and carers. It has brought about closer working together and a better sense of ownership of the group by the families, so much so that for the first time we ventured to present a "Toddler Nativity" on the final session before Christmas.

It was a real success and wonderful to see the children all dressed up and the adults taking turns to tell the story. This term we have been pleased to see how those who have been coming a while now seem much more ready to invite others and we have had several new families this term who have been very pleasantly surprised by the range and quality of the toys we now offer.

We would like to thank all the churches in Runnymede Deanery for their contributions to the grant fund which has allowed us to improve what we can provide for young families in our parish and extend a warmer welcome to those who come through the doors for the first time."

Revd Janet Franck, Curate at St Paul's Church Egham Hythe



New toys in action / Toddler Nativity at St Paul's, Egham Hythe; Photo Credits: Revd Janet Franck

It's Your Call – Creating a Culture of Vocation

This was the topic of the latest Runnymede Deanery Open Synod evening, hosted by All Saints' Church, New Haw, with former Egham Curate Craig Holmes in his new position as Director of Ordinands (DDO) and his colleague Glynis Beazley, Vocations Advisor, giving enthusiastic talks full of information and accompanied by hands-on brainstorming exercises and shared discussions that gave the good crowd present a lot of food for thought to take back to their churches/PCCs on how to foster vocations of all sorts – ordained and lay – within their churches. It is our hope that the impact doesn't stop there but that all our churches will engage with the topic and the ideas provided. Both the very informative handout and the two-page brainstorming exercise sheets are available via runnymededeanery@gmail.com.

Thoughts from “east to west”: 7 Universal Competencies for Success – # 6 Communicate Clearly

An article from Dan Beedell, “east to west” Communications [abbreviated]. [“east to west” is one of the charities Runnymede Deanery has worked with for many years, providing support workers with a Christian background for some local schools.] This piece is well worth reading for any Church trying to get its message out there, which is why we have abbreviated less than usual.

“Parenting is a complicated puzzle! Some theologians would argue it’s even harder to understand than the book of Revelation! I was in Kingston (Surrey, not Jamaica) over half term and heard a parent in exasperation say to their whining child, ‘do what I mean, not what I say!’ It made me chuckle at the absurdity of the statement but I also thought ‘been there, said that’.

This simple moment reminded me of something I was told at university about product branding, namely that lots of companies launching products into new markets fall foul of the local language, especially when the translation offered a different meaning than what they’d been hoping to share. Just for fun, here are some more printable ones:

- Clairol launched a curling iron called "Mist Stick" in Germany where "mist" is German slang for manure.
- Coca-Cola’s brand name, when first marketed in China, was translated as "Bite the Wax Tadpole".
- KFC scared Chinese consumers when "finger licking good" was translated as "eat your fingers off".
- Parker Pen, when expanding into Mexico, mistranslated "it won't leak in your pocket and embarrass you" into "it won't leak in your pocket and make you pregnant".
- The American Dairy Association replicated its "Got Milk?" campaign in Spanish-speaking countries as "Are You Lactating?"

We can (hopefully) see that there is a real importance to thinking about what it is we want to share and how we go about it. It’s easy to fall into common traps around language. I recently did a piece of work around communication for east to west’s trustees and the journey we’d taken as a charity around the language we use with our supporters and partners. If you’ve received wePRAY over some years you will have seen a transformation in both the message and style of what you receive. Online, our website has been updated. The twice-yearly newsletter is now termly and its production/delivery has been brought in-house (saving around £2,000 a year). We have updated the way we verbalise what we do with partners and supporters, tailoring our language so it’s relevant to its audience.

This process began by investigating and challenging three simple questions/assumptions: Does language matter? If we speak, will people listen and understand? Do people want to hear what we have to say? We discovered the answers were Yes, No and No! The language we use matters massively. It must be accessible, understandable and engaging. If it’s not, it doesn’t matter what you’re trying to say, people won’t or can’t engage as you hope they will.

The second answer was No! It challenged the assumption that how we speak is easily understood. How easy is it to slip into jargon or acronym? How many of you would understand Bleeding Edge; Horgborble; TTFN or GIF*? Communication is full of this in-house(!) language; those who are not ‘in the know’ are very much left feeling on the outside of what is happening.

The third question led to a very humbling response. Assuming people want to hear what you have to say is just that... an assumption! When we realised that not everyone wants to know more about ‘bringing hope to young lives’, we began to think about how we position ourselves in the noisiness of modern society. How do we make our voice clear and one which people want to engage with? In essence, in all its busyness, how do we make east to west stand out and present itself as something people want to discover more about? The key is simple. It’s communication! Clear, carefully thought through, engaging, informative communication!!

When we understand what it is that we’re trying to communicate, think about the audiences we’re sharing with and then do so in a coherent, accessible way, we can change the way we’re viewed, understood and even perceived by others...and then we can begin to achieve new and exciting things!”

And if you wondered what Bleeding Edge, Horgborble, TTFN and GIF mean, go to <https://www.easttowest.org.uk/post/wepray-march-2020> and scroll to the bottom. Remember, you can always read the full version of Dan’s monthly musings on their website!

east to west Prayer Requests: This month please pray for Family Link Worker Alisa, her family and her work especially around a new east to west project, working with a child through CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), and for God’s guidance in all that she does.

*****EVENTS NOTICE EVENTS NOTICE EVENTS NOTICE*****

Owing to the rapidly developing meeting restrictions being introduced to contain the spread of the coronavirus, most if not all events and diary dates submitted for inclusion in this newsletter are likely to be cancelled/postponed/rescheduled.

Therefore we have decided to omit the diary and regular events sections for the time being, to be reintroduced once restrictions will ease.

Meanwhile, we will feature this Prayer Corner to help you keep the situation in prayer:

*****PRAYER CORNER PRAYER CORNER PRAYER CORNER*****

Here is an encouraging article from chvnradio.com – the link takes you to the full article; some prayer points (shortened excerpt from the article) can be found below.

<https://www.chvnradio.com/christian-news/praying-through-a-pandemic-10-specific-prayers-for-responding-to-coronavirus-anxiety?>

- Pray that God would calm anxieties. As His people we can have a different identity: boldness, not fear. Pray for the Church to be a calming presence; a radiant light in the confusion and darkness.
- Pray that we would be people of compassion reaching out into our neighbourhoods. Pray for our Faith Family in places where following Jesus means lack of community healthcare and medicines, or social boycott.
- Pray for world leaders, healthcare organizations and the medical community developing next steps; that all may be united for the common good.
- Pray with researchers and biologists as they work on a coronavirus vaccine; for wisdom and insight in the development and implementation.
- Pray with all first-responders tasked with triaging, testing and treating increasing numbers of people; for their patience, wisdom and a gentle spirit around people's fears, and for effective treatment as hospitals are seeing unprecedented numbers of patients with flu symptoms.
- Pray with church leaders as they offer insight and wisdom to their congregations and communities...to be voices of reason, clarity and grace.
- Pray with families of people who have died and for those undergoing treatment; for comfort to the broken-hearted and strength to those suffering physically and emotionally.
- Pray for those whose jobs or hours have been cut due to economic downturn; parents struggling to work and care for their children; for churches to reach out and provide for families in their communities, showing them the love of Christ.
- Pray that God's people would be unified as one Church, and that we would look to the lives and faith of our persecuted brothers and sisters as we navigate fear and the unknown; that we would look to them for guidance and for hope.
- Pray that we as God's people keep our hope in Christ and the truth that our Saviour who died and rose for us has already overcome the world; that we read His Word and take both His call and His promises to head and heart.

Here is a link for the sign-up to a worldwide virtual Coronavirus Prayer Room; includes a link to a 60-minute prayer resource. <https://www.24-7prayer.com/coronavirusprayer>

Assorted Coronavirus Prayers: https://www.24-7prayer.com/downloads/coronavirus_prayer.pdf

Also, here is a link to the Coronavirus Guidance and resources from Guildford Diocese: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/coronavirus-guidance>

Your contributions to this publication are always very welcome - via secretary@runnymededeanery.org.uk no later than the 10th of the month please. **Please remember when giving contacts or photos that we publish on the Internet.**

Best wishes, The Runnymede Deanery Team