



Reigate Deanery “Virtual” Synod Meeting Minutes

Date:	Tuesday 23 rd February 2021, 8pm		
Venue:	ZOOM		
Meeting Chair:	Revd Anita Colpus		
Note Taker/Secretary:	Judith O’Connell (judith@stlukesreigate.org.uk)		
Attendees:	50	Apologies:	16

	ITEM	Action by
1	Welcome by Revd Anita Colpus (Area Dean) – Reading from 1: Peter	
2	Review of Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held via Zoom on 22 nd October 2020. Some minor amendments noted. Signed as an accurate record by Anita.	
3	Anita proposed the formal adoption of the paper ‘The role of Deaneries and the Rules and Constitution of Deanery Synods’. Unanimously adopted.	
4	<p>Reigate Deanery “Mission Action Plan (MAP)”</p> <p>Thanks to those who have emailed Leslie Jackson (Lay Chair) with matters they would like to raise or discuss within the Deanery. Anyone who would like to message Leslie, please email Judith and she will pass your message along.</p> <p>Update from Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health Forum – Discussed providing training for those working with youth/young people and possibly also pastoral support for adults. Updates to follow. - ECO Church – part of the “Creative in Mission” commitment. Would like to connect ECO Church Champions from each church to move this forward. Please email Judith with the name of your Parish “ECO” representative, if you have one. - The Quiet Day – will not go ahead this day due to COVID restrictions. - Children & Youth – very good meeting with Youth Champions. Would like to create a forum to share ideas on youth. Please contact Rachel if you would like to be involved. - Thy Kingdom Come – Due to COVID restrictions, there will not be any collective events this year, but encourage each church to focus on their own prayerful call. 	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
5	<p>Presentation by The Revd Canon Jay Colwill (Canon Missioner and Director of Mission and Evangelism) on “How are we drawing people to faith?” (PowerPoint slides attached with minutes)</p> <p>Focussed on the “Tell” Mark of Mission.</p> <p>Group Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When would it be appropriate to share my faith in Christ? 2. How would I like to be able to do this? 3. What skills or experience do I need to enable me? <p>Click here to see feedback from groups at bottom of this document</p>	



6	<p>Updates from Deanery Project Areas</p> <p><u>Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF) – update by Chris Elliot</u></p> <p>There is a Modern Slavery webinar on 24th April (flyer previous circulated). Have some excellent speakers and is an important topic.</p> <p><u>Youth & Children – update by Rachel Gardner</u></p> <p>Parish reps for Children and young people meet once per term. Really difficult to engage young people at the moment and recently had a good meeting to share ideas. She will be following up to make sure she has the correct contact details for all churches, to ensure everyone is supported.</p> <p>ACTION: If you think your Parish Rep contact details are not correct, please contact Rachel with up-to-date details. She is very happy to have multiple contacts! For more information, please contact Rachel on: cfm@saintpeterschurch.org.uk</p>	ALL
7	<p>Diocesan Synod Election</p> <p>Key Dates:</p> <p>Nomination Period (14 days): 19 May – 02 June 2021</p> <p>Diocesan Synod Election Period (14 days): 03 – 17 June 2021</p> <p>Election announcement at Deanery Synod: 23 June 2021</p> <p>More information to follow regarding the nomination and election process as soon as it is available.</p>	Leslie
8	<p>Notices</p> <p>General Synod elections coming up, would be good to have a representative from Reigate Deanery.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone for attending.</p> <p>There is a National Deaneries Network that runs a conference every 2 years. They have a session coming up on Wednesday 17th March 2021 with a focus on Lay Ministry, visit: https://www.nationaldeaneries.net for further information.</p> <p>Closing prayers lead by Jay Colwill.</p>	
9	<p>Dates of Future Meetings:</p> <p>Wednesday 23rd June 2021, Thursday 21st October 2021</p>	

Attachments:

- Final Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held on 22nd October 2020.
- Presentation from Jay Colwill
- Modern Slavery webinar (24th April) – information

Signed as an accurate account of the meeting by Rev Anita Colpus

_____ **Date:** _____

FEEDBACK FROM DISCUSSION GROUPS (following Presentation by Jay Colwill – Point 5)

Group Discussion Questions:

- 1. When would it be appropriate to share my faith in Christ?**
 - 2. How would I like to be able to do this?**
 - 3. What skills or experience do I need to enable me?**
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- Different groups in society (police etc). want to engage with us as church people, the church is the “face of people”.
- Great when it is conversational. Reticence that we may lose our friends if we discuss faith. Maybe practice with each other and get over the embarrassment, that may help. Encouragement to make it more natural.
- Practice is what is needed. Putting yourself out there as a Christian is a powerful enabler. How do we make ourselves visible?
- Try not being apologetic, be able to give testimonies as to how you come to your faith. Pass it on within the community. Don't rush into it. Take your time. Street Pastors.
- Really encouraging about personal relationships, you can share. Take opportunities through relationships.
- Working at home and relationships have been easier to talk 1-2-1, rather than in a busy office.
- Making the most of the opportunity we've got now. Building more relationships within the local communities. “How can I know” and “How can I tell” courses were run. Went through the marks of mission.
- Kindness and community are things that make it easier. People like to be practical. Food banks etc.
- Wearing a cross, something on your car can start a conversation.
- Faith diversity in the workplace includes Christianity. Good to note that.
- Would like to chat about the Sermon after a service, not just “general chat”.
- Take confidence from those Talking Jesus stats; people are way more open to the gospel than we've given them credit for, especially if over approx. 50% call themselves Christians but only 9% are regularly practising faith. Personal anecdote from Guildford diocese we held a social 'Fair in the Square' in Woking town centre: 99% entertainment, bouncy castles etc but included a 'Free Prayer' Tent. There was a queue all afternoon. The same thing happened the following year.
- The importance of personal testimony and the impact it can have on others cannot be overestimated. I am aware of many people within my life group who claim not to have the ability to share about Jesus because they don't have “enough knowledge” or may not be able to answer people's questions well enough so we talked about the way we can just share the way that Christ has changed ‘my life’. Jay asked about what resources we might need.... The lovely thing about personal testimony is that we need no book learning or authority to be able to tell our story because we all have the skills to tell our own story.
- In the Church in Wales 10 to 15 years ago, we encouraged church members to wear a badge shaped in a celtic cross. Because they were nice ones people often commented on them, and it gave you a good 'in'. It was also a good way of identifying somebody else from the Church in Wales. The pandemic has enabled us to talk to random people when out on walks or in front gardens. We are looking at running the Happiness Course when we can meet people more openly. We are also looking at running craft courses in church on a reasonably regular basis and offering it to the community, rather than merely the church community. Relationships make a huge difference.
- We chatted about how we were all quite shy about telling people about our faith. As we didn't know what their response would be. But, one on one made us feel more comfortable with a friend. How to begin the conversation the way in would be about community help and support. this addressed those less religious but would encourage them to join our path. If we each told of our own personal journey and how we started to join church it would be more personable. Kindness and community should lead and that may help someone with their path to Christianity.