



Reigate Deanery “Virtual” Synod Meeting Minutes

Date:	Tuesday 22 February 2022, 8pm		
Venue:	ZOOM		
Meeting Chair:	Leslie Jackson (Lay Chair – Reigate Deanery)		
Note Taker/Secretary:	Judith O’Connell (judith@stlukesreigate.org.uk)		
Attendees:	40	Apologies:	5

	ITEM	Action
1	Welcome & Prayer by Revd Martin Colton (Area Dean)	
2	Review of Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held via Zoom on 14 th October 2021. To be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.	
3	Commissioning of Rev Martin Colton as Area Dean of Reigate Bishop Jonathan Clark joined the meeting to commission Rev Martin Colton as new Area Dean.	
4	<p>Parish ECO Updates</p> <p><u>St. Marys (Leslie Jackson)</u></p> <p>Leslie gave an overview of the work currently being undertaken at St Mary’s (Reigate), who have recently been awarded their Silver Status Award. Leslie shared information on the weekly “Green Lent Pledges” put together at St. Mary’s (for full details, see APPENDIX 1). Themes are:</p> <p>Week 1 – Fasting Week 2 – Simplicity Week 3 – Giving Week 4 – Service</p> <p>Also noted “Fairtrade Fortnight”, which is taking place from Sat 26 Feb – Sun 06 March, and how this is linked in to upcoming plans at St. Mary’s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Focused Lent Study Course run by Rev. Mike Fox. • Plans for a woodland prayer trail. New themes and new planting generated by gifts from the congregation of plants, fabric and landscaping material. • Plans for an Eco Church Multi Denominational Presentation evening where churches can share what they are doing and celebrate achievement (date tbc). • Climate Action Redhill Reigate (CARR) and interdenominational WhatsApp Group. <p>For further information on ECO Church categories and how to register, please click here.</p> <p><u>St. Mark’s (Sophia Oliver)</u></p> <p>Sophia gave an overview of the work currently being undertaken at St. Mark’s (Reigate), who currently hold Bronze status, but are working towards their Silver.</p> <p>St. Mark’s have been looking at how to reduce their carbon footprint and have recently had 70 solar panels installed on St. Mark’s church hall. The solar panels were obtained via a collective purchase scheme (run through Surrey CC) with a significant (50%) discount. St. Mark’s are also reviewing use of electricity and replacing lights with LEDs and trialling “Green Sundays” (having heating off in church one Sunday per month and holding services in the church hall).</p> <p>If you would like to contact Sophia to ask her any further questions, please do so: sophiaspammer@gmail.com</p>	





	<p><u>St. Matthew's (Hilary Richardson)</u></p> <p>St. Matthew's currently hold their Silver award and stopped using green oasis for flowers (which is high in plastic content) a while ago in favour of more eco-brown oasis (but phasing out to use wire). Have been using LED lights for some time.</p> <p>During Fairtrade fortnight encouraging swaps to Fairtrade items and sharing with others what items have been swapped.</p> <p><u>St. Katharine's, Merstham (Jill Gunn)</u></p> <p>Have an extension planned and looking at ways of incorporating ECO items into the build (in particular heating systems). Merstham is in a Team Ministry and sharing ideas on ECO. Have a development link with a local school who are going to perform an ECO song. Working on a wildlife garden next to the church. Also researching ECO friendly paper cups for use in the church.</p> <p><u>Solar Panels on Churches</u></p> <p>The Surrey County Council collective purchase scheme are willing to extend the reduced price to other churches, if they are interested. Please contact Sophia Oliver for further details. The company involved in this are: Home Smart Energy – vetted by Surrey CC. Planning permissions re. listed buildings may need some consideration, but Diocese fully supportive of this.</p> <p>For further information on ECO Church and to review the presentations given at the last Synod meeting, please go to: https://www.reigatedeanery.org.uk/eco-church .</p>	
5	<p>Updates from Deanery Project Areas</p> <p><u>Youth & Children – Rachel Gardner</u></p> <p>Parish Rep Meetings have continued to meet via Zoom and hopeful to have first in-person meeting in May. Lots of reps now taking part, but if your rep has changed (or you have a new one), please let Rachel know.</p> <p>ACTION: To confirm or update your local rep details please contact Rachel on: cfm@saintpeterschurch.org.uk</p> <p>Rachel confirmed that she is leaving St. Peter's at the end of May and has been seeking a new Deanery Youth Champion. Joanna Hales (joannahales25@hotmail.com) from St. John's, Redhill has agreed to taken on the role and will be feeding in updates to Synod via Leslie Jackson.</p> <p>Thanks given to Rachel for all the work she has done for CYP – in her Parish and within the wider Deanery. All wished her the best for her future endeavours.</p> <p><u>RASJF – Chris Elliott</u></p> <p>Chris gave an update on the work of the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF) group. Webinar planned for 07 May focused on Modern Slavery and what happens to survivors. All welcome to register to take part click here for registration form. (this is a free event).</p> <p>RASJF are happy to come and talk to church groups re. signs of Modern Slavery.</p> <p>Surrey Anti-slavery pledge with local businesses, to also include churches. Please ask that this is added to PCC agendas. To download a copy of the pledge document, please click here.</p> <p>For further information on RASJF and details of upcoming events, please contact Chris Elliott on rasocialjustice@gmail.com or visit: https://www.reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasjf</p> <p><u>Lay Conference “Inside Out” – Leslie Jackson</u></p> <p>Lesley gave an update from Conference held on 06 November 2021 where Andrew Graystone spoke on “Tiny Acts of Rebellion” – which was very moving. Breakout groups were also very useful.</p> <p>The next Southwark Diocesan Conference is planned for: 1-3 September 2022. Christ-centred, outward-focused (online and in-person at Bacon's College, Rotherhithe).</p> <p>Hopeful that next one will be on Saturday 2 March 2024 (at St Bede's School in Redhill, tbc).</p>	



	<p><u>Deanery Leadership Team (DLT)</u></p> <p>Martin gave an update on DLT and explained that there are currently vacancies for new Lay and Clergy members. Current members of DLT are: Rev Martin Colton, Leslie Jackson, Rev Les Wells, Rev Sarah Alexander, Rev Richard Wilson, Rev John Itumu Rachel Gardner, Fiona Hawker (Treasurer)</p> <p><u>Quiet Day (09 April 2022)</u></p> <p>To be held at Wychcroft and led by The Venerable Alastair Cutting at a cost of £25 per person. Please attend if you can. Register via the Reigate Deanery website by completing the form: https://forms.gle/gqHs5zNDBAWtZazB9</p> <p><u>General Synod Update (Matt Parkes)</u></p> <p>Matt introduced himself as a worshipper at St John's and gave an update from General Synod. Speakers included Lord Boateng, who emphasised the need to take action on discrimination and inclusivity (racial inclusivity). At end of Synod, House of Laity voted to co-opt 5 members from minority/ ethnic backgrounds to improve diversity.</p> <p>Maggie Atkinson gave a safeguarding update and the complexity of the process. Highlighted that it would also be good to recognise positive examples of Safeguarding.</p> <p>Recommendation put forward that the Safeguarding “organism” within the Church of England, should NOT be completely independent (but in a partnership to ensure action taken).</p> <p>Other areas discussed included: faculty applications, moves towards climate-neutrality, finance and change (heating options as approach 2030), clergy stipend.</p> <p>Crown Nominations Commission consultation and Governance Review Report was also discussed.</p> <p>For further information on General Synod – please visit: https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/about-general-synod or https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/topics/general-synod</p> <p>Any comments/feedback re. General Synod, please contact Matt: Matthew.c.parkes@gmail.com</p>	
6	<p>Finance Update by Fiona Hawker (Treasurer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of 2021 – should be ready by next meeting for sign-off. In brief, £ 500 income, outgoings: £ 668. Little activity over last couple of years. • At DLT, discussed Parish Contributions for 2022. Won't be asking for 2022 but will be asking for contributions in 2023. At that point, Fiona will be asking for up-to-date Treasurer Contact information, but not yet just in case details change. 	FH
7	<p>Notices/AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clergy Updates – Anita Colpus moved to Lewes, St. Luke's in vacancy. Susie Williams (Chipstead) has resigned. Andrew Cunnington (St. Matthews) moving to Chichester Diocese in April. Parishes in vacancy: Charlwood/Sidlow Bridge, Merstham (Team Vicar). <p>Huge thanks given to Father Andrew Cunnington for all he has done within the Deanery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Elliott would like to set up a multi-faith initiative (which was started pre-COVID). If any Clergy (or Laity) would like to work on this with him, please get in touch: rasocialjustice@gmail.com • Thy Kingdom Come – coming up between Ascension and Pentecost (26 May – 05 June 2022). No local events currently planned, but information will be sent when available. • Open the Book - training event on 10th March 9.30-1pm in Horley. To book click here. There are other local OtB groups, JOC to add contact links to Deanery website. Please let Judith know if there are other groups/contact details to add to this page. 	JOC

8	<p>Dates of Future Meetings in 2022</p> <p>Wednesday 29th June (Horley, St. Bartholomews) – <i>please note change of date...</i></p> <p>Thursday 20th October (venue – tbc)</p>	
9	<p>Meeting Closed in Prayer</p>	

Attachments:

- Final Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held on 14th October 2021.

APPENDIX 1

Green Lent Pledges and Creation:

Week 1 Fasting

- Enjoy 1 meat free meal a week
- Meal Plan and only buy what you need when you shop
- Make a donation to a local food bank
- Plan fast days during Lent

Week 2 Simplicity

- Pledge not to buy anything new during Lent
- Consider 2nd hand first and offer things you no longer use to the charity shop or list on Freecycle
- Learn to repair things yourself or visit the Repair Café
- Enjoy the natural world every day

Week 3 Giving

- Make a Swap to a Fairtrade product
- Give home-made, home-grown or eco-friendly gifts to friends
- Dedicate a birthday or special event to an environmental cause and ask for donations instead of gifts
- Offer someone a lift share to work or church

Week 4 Service

- Recycle more
- Make your Garden a Haven for birds, bees and butterflies
- Take part in a Litter Pick, Beach/River Clean or Tree planting
- Visit your local zero waste/green stores to investigate simple product swaps to help the environment.