



Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting Minutes

Date:	Thursday 12 October 2023, 8pm		
Venue:	St John's Church, Redhill		
Meeting Chair:	Rev Martin Colton (Area Dean) / Leslie Jackson		
Note Taker/Secretary:	Alexia Hartman (reigatedeanery@gmail.com)		
Attendees:	44	Apologies:	22

	ITEM	Action
1	Welcome & Opening Worship by Rev Martin Colton (St Mark's Church) / Rev John Kronenberg (St John's Church)	
2	<p>Review of Minutes of Reigate Deanery Synod Meeting held on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at Christ the King Church, Salfords.</p> <p>Spelling correction noted – Lizzy Garrett and not Lizzy Garrat.</p> <p>Will be signed by Martin as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>APCM – there still a few forms outstanding. Results forms to please forwarded to Alexia so that she can update the system accordingly.</p>	AH
3	<p>Diocesan Vision Draft for 2023 – 2035 and Deanery MAP</p> <p>Attendees were asked to split into groups of 5 (preferably individuals from different parishes to further discuss the points in the Diocesan Vision and to report back their shared ideas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What could we do about those things in our church 2. 5 parts – our priorities <p>Our shared values are split into two categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christ centered and 2. Outward focused <p>The following points were mentioned:</p> <p><u>Our Shared Values</u></p> <p>JOY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More support for Christians in the workplace - Church involvement in community events - Reminder of Modern Slavery Pledge - Well-organised together / well held in order to survive - Depth and sincerity rooted in foundation in Christ - Children bring joy – welcome families and children – connections made in and out of church - Loneliness and isolation – how do you do that well? - Mix ages – old and young – mixing generations - Be like disciples – share good news - Depth in worship more than 'excellence' – grounded in relationship with Christ - Messy Church / Coffee mornings - Don't exclude lead / held well to express joy 	ALL



- Celebrating God's love

JUSTICE

HOPE

- Looking beyond church news
- Being the best version of yourself
- Marketing, postcards, church fetes

LOVE

- Visit other churches
- Discover other faiths
- Speakers from other churches – bond churches and congregations together
- Open mornings in other places of faith such as synagogues, mosques, other churches
- Low self-esteem / speak well

COMMUNITY

- Toddler groups
- Engage in families
- Church Schools
- Sparkfish - mentoring
- Involvement in community engagement
- Welcare – to support our community
- Children events with schools
- Giving – supporting school trips
- Coach trips to a cathedral
- Harvest Supper
- Weekly café
- Table Talk
- Seasonal discussion

HUMILITY

- Guest speakers from other faiths / churches

HOSPITALITY

- Coffee events after services
- Good welcome teams
- Café style service – offer hospitality out of community
- Family orientated events – use opportunities such as Christmas and Easter
- Seasonal holidays to bring families and communities together
- Coffee mornings or parish lunches

GROWTH

- Variety of services to attract different people
- Different services at different times
- Joint Evensong with local churches – working together – helping each other out
- Junior section for teenagers – perhaps St Mary's can offer advice and support
- Market stall in Redhill



Our priorities for the future

Maintaining the highest possible number of stipendiary clergy and growing lay ministries

- Church well-being – need to support congregations
- Somewhere to go if clergy need support
- Read lesson take prayers, vocations – encourage people to do things
- Sustainable discipleship

Growing our existing churches and establishing new worshipping communities

- Careful not to let go
- Sharing Christ – encouraging partnerships
- Get outside of our church
- We are the voice of the church – privilege to bring Jesus into places where He wouldn't be – be ourselves / normal / useful

Becoming younger and more diverse

- Sustainable – supporting each other / young adults thriving Christians / group together and put something together
- Need to grow younger
- Small percentage of youth attend church
- Need to encourage younger generation

Deepening our discipleship

- More support for Sparkfish – schools – mentoring
- Encourage more lay people to do Bishops certificate – first port of call for ministry training
- What some churches are doing well in the deanery to share with deanery - SHARING – aspect of Christian discipleship
- Growing faith within church schools
- More transparency across wider areas

Seeking the healing of our communities and our world

- Within our own churches
- Committed / transparent / open
- Safeguarding
- Growing together
- Planning
- Identifying unconscious bias
- Need intention
- Salford's have a healings service every Wednesday
- Climate emergency
- Try to remove church jargon
- Form an Eco-church Group with guest speakers
- Attract younger members – teenagers through green/eco churches – their thoughts and ideas
- Community children's walk
- Seeding and letting go – supporting each other
- Reconciliation and healing – safeguarding
- Winter Night Shelter
- Food banks
- Outdoor Carols
- Outdoor Church
- Involvement: Carnival



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Agenda to add:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Relationships instead of fabrics itemso Engagement within the church and community	
4	<p>Background Paper (to be debated):</p> <p>A Paper to be sent to Diocesan Synod with the following Motion that was debated and passed in June 2023:</p> <p><i>This Synod requests the Diocesan Synod to debate a motion calling for the General Synod to review how Church of England weddings have changed since the pandemic, and asking for the Government to change the law to allow Church of England ministers to conduct Church of England weddings in places other than church of England registered settings.</i></p> <p>There were a range of views regarding this which were discussed. However, the majority were in favour of this motion.</p> <p>It was noted that we should include varied views regarding this motion. Include more about the discussion and concerns into these different views into the paper to be sent to the Diocesan Synod. It was noted that clarification from both sides of the argument needed to be expressed more.</p> <p>One main concern being a reduction of church weddings.</p> <p>Fr Martin and Leslie to include more range to the motion.</p>	MC / LJ
5	<p>Deanery Updates</p> <p><u>Youth & Children including Duggie Dug event 25 November</u></p> <p>The event is due to be held at St Mark's Church. £5 per child. Free entry for adults. Individual churches could subsidise the event. To reduce charges payment could be made directly to St Mark's Church rather than via the ticketing system. Bespoke flyers could be arranged to suit the individual needs of each church.</p> <p>https://www.duggiedugdug.org/</p> <p><u>Welcare (Chris Elliot)</u></p> <p>Welcare is a charity working with families and children up to the age of 13 in South London and East Surrey. They are dependent upon grants, and donations (money) always helpful.</p> <p>Chris has asked for monetary donations especially at this time of year so that they are able to use the money to buy specific items for the individuals in need. Supermarket vouchers are also a good idea.</p> <p>Chris thanked all churches for their continued support.</p> <p>For further information, visit the website: https://welcare.org/</p>	



	<p><u>RASJF (Chris Elliot)</u></p> <p>Chris noted that if you do not want to sign the Modern Slavery Pledge to please let him know.</p> <p>They have developed an information sheet which Chris will circulate.</p> <p>Hidden Voices are currently running a course at St Mark’s Church for those in Reigate. Will be running another in Merstham in Spring 2024.</p> <p>For further info on this and other RASJF work, visit: https://reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasjf</p> <p><i>Please get in touch with Chris if you would like him to speak to your congregation after a Sunday service regarding Welcare and/or RASJF.</i></p> <p><u>Deanery Leadership Team (DLT)</u></p> <p>Please speak to Leslie Jackson if you are interested joining the team. Lay people are required.</p> <p><u>Quiet Day Wychcroft 23 March 2024</u></p> <p>The invitation extends to all members of every parish in the Deanery. Places are limited. An email will be sent out closer to the time on how to book your place.</p>	LJ
6	<p>Finance</p> <p>Not much to report. The Duggie Dug Dug event which the deanery are underwriting will have an impact with a better update in February.</p>	FH
7	<p>Notices (including AOB raised at the meeting)</p> <p><u>Clergy Updates / Parishes in vacancy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charlwood/Sidlow Bridge – Sue Lepp will be licensed as Priest in Charge and Lead Chaplain at Gatwick Airport on 24 October. <p>Parishes in vacancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Philip’s in Reigate since beginning of August - Sorting out Parish Profile – possibly half-time post - St Philip’s / St Mark’s / St Matthew’s – youth worker – full time position <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>Food Banks</u></p> <p>Hilary Richardson thanked everyone for their continued support. She highlighted that there is still a great need for donations at St Matthew’s, Loveworks and Horley Foodbanks.</p> <p>Last year’s Harvest and Christmas donations saw them through to Easter but the demand has increased. The cabins where they store the items are going after half-term which will reduce storage space and is a concern for them.</p> <p>If anyone knows of anyone that may be able to assist, please encourage them to review website https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/ and see what they can do to help.</p> <p>https://www.loveworks.org.uk/</p> <p>http://www.horleyfoodbank.com/</p>	



8	<i>Dates of Future Meetings in 2024</i> Tuesday 27 th February 2024 (on Zoom) Wednesday 26 th June 2024 (venue – tbc) Thursday 10 th October 2024 (venue - tbc)	
9	Meeting Closed in Prayer Rev John Kronenberg (St John's Church)	