

This report covers the last 12-months of our three-year stint as Deanery Synod (DS) representatives from St Mary's, Horne. During the forthcoming APCM at your parish church you will have the opportunity to elect new DS representatives. If you like to see the bigger picture then this role is ideal. There is a leaflet available in your church that explains about Deaneries and the purpose of DS. Here is a quote from that leaflet...

*"One of the key priorities for our Diocese is enabling Deaneries to become viable centres of mission and ministry as we work towards **Southwark Vision**, including increasing our weekly attendance and the number of worshipping communities."*

I encourage you to read a copy and then to come forward as candidate for DS representative for the next triennium.

Meeting: Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Venue: St Mary's Church, Church Lane, Oxted, RH8 9NB, There were 74 people present.



The meeting opened with an introduction from Revd. James Ashton and then prayers led by Revd. Canon Anna Eltringham, Rector, Oxted Team. Anna began with some interactive thoughts, asking what people had done to celebrate the recent Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There have been tea parties, bellringing, outdoor church services and open days, all such an opportunity to re-connect. An image of the Platinum Jubilee logo (emblem) was displayed. This was the winning entry of the competition, designed by 19-year-old graphic design student Edward Roberts, from Nottinghamshire. What can you see in it? A long continuous line indicating a long reign and incorporating the number 70, a crown, someone with wings, a cross at the heart, purple for royalty. We all see different things. For all our differences we belong together; we need each other. Anna said in the logo she saw the Holy Spirit holding us together. Wendy will talk about our different ministries and gifts. Anna concluded with a Church of England Platinum Jubilee prayer.

Main Topic: A Season of Lay Ministries, (15 mins)

Speaker: Wendy Robins, Canon Chancellor, Southwark Cathedral and Director of Discipleship, Lay Ministry and Continuing Ministerial Education.

A letter from Bishop Christopher defines a season for focus on Lay Ministry.

*"The concept of a Season of Lay Ministries grew out of a discussion about encouraging vocations to **new authorised lay ministries** which took place at the Bishop's Staff Meeting in November 2021. It is going to take place from 19 June (Trinity 1) to 10 July (Trinity 4) 2022.*

*The idea is that during this period all parishes will be encouraged to spend some time focussing on and promoting vocations to lay ministry – the **new affirmed, commissioned, and licensed ones** as well as existing ministries such as Readers, SPAs, and the Church Army."*

Wendy gave a talk, that was followed by a breakout discussion on all roles that we should recognise in our churches as part of Lay Ministry.

Affirmed Lay Ministry

Affirmed ministries are specific to the particular context and a church can have any affirmed ministry it wants. People can be recognised locally after appropriate preparation. For example, they could be servers or tea and coffee helpers. Church members should be encouraged in parishes in what they would like to do and affirmed in that ministry. Gratitude should be expressed to those already undertaking these roles, so they know they are valued in what they are doing. Remember to affirm and thank all those who are already helping.

There is a risk that we overlook the meaningful contributions made by lay people. Their contributions should be recognized and acknowledged in some appropriate way. One example would be to have an annual party to which all of the people are invited and a formal acknowledgement and ‘thank you’ offered to them collectively.

The kinds of role included are most of the service duties on our monthly rotas, sides people, ministers of communion, readers, intercessors, caterers, plus it also includes choristers, cleaners, flower arrangers and churchyard maintainers, and possibly others I have missed.

Further information and resources are available at:

southwark.anglican.org/exploring-your-call/lay-ministries/

Updated leaflets have also been sent to all parishes.

Contact wendy.robins@southwark.anglican.org if you need any more.

I think this is a good initiative because although we have all these activities, and more, within the Windmill benefice, it is possibly not the case that we show gratitude annually for the commitments given. One practical difficulty with providing an acknowledgement by way of a ‘tea party’ for example, is that someone has to prepare and deliver the ‘thank you’ event! The solution we used in a previous parish was to divide the teams in half and then two parties were arranged one for each half delivered by the other half. In the Windmill Benefice it might be possible to divide it between parishes? For example, Horne could entertain Burstow and Outwood and then Burstow and Outwood could lay on something for Horne.

Business Meeting

The second part of the meeting is mainly taken up with formal items which I will not mention here, but it was agreed that Autumn and Winter DS meetings will be held on Zoom to avoid unnecessary travel in inclement weather.

Meeting: Thursday 20 October 2022, (On Zoom)

Main topic: How “HeartEdge” is helping grow Kingdom Communities.

Speaker: Andy Turner.

See <https://www.heartedge.org/> for more information. Heartedge was formed in 2017, by St Martin in the fields. Here is an extract from their website.

“We set up HeartEdge to expand the imagination of a church captivated by scarcity. HeartEdge is about church becoming fully alive. It seeks to transform church and society through commerce, culture, compassion and congregational life”.

HeartEdge does that through...:

Transforming Practice.

Encouraging, fostering, training practitioners in imaginative and holistic approaches to mission.

Training, education, consultancy, peer support, signposting and examples.

Transforming Discourse.

Coining new language and engaging topical issues through the lens of God’s abundance.

Seminars, summer schools, events and conferences live and online.

Transformative Programmes.

Offering tested ‘products’ that practitioners can swiftly implement.

Cultivating and promoting specific mission initiatives that can be adapted for local use.

Story So Far:

Phase One, from Feb 2017 to Feb 2020, saw HeartEdge concentrate on growing the movement through face-to-face introductory days around the UK and establishing hub churches; and promoting the four-‘C’s (*see below*) through consultancy days, the Sheppard Scholar scheme, the mailer and special days on individual ‘C’s. In addition, HeartEdge launched the Manchester hub and St Martin’s participated in the Resource Church Initiative.

In January 2020 HeartEdge identified its four core objectives: Cultivating Good Examples; Training and Supporting Leaders; Equipping, Encouraging and Energising Churches; and Fostering Good Practice.

Phase Two, from March 2020 to March 2022 saw HeartEdge concentrate on offering the Living God’s Future Now festival: zoom seminars that advanced these four objectives. Online activity hugely increased awareness of and participation in HeartEdge. Case Histories was published, the first Mission Summer School was held, and the four consultants began their work.

An ecumenical network, HeartEdge brings together people to share ideas and experience, do theology and develop their church and community. We are developing in the UK, US, the Netherlands and elsewhere.

HeartEdge is about churches developing four-‘C’s:

Commerce: Generating finance via enterprise, creatively extending mission.

Culture: Art, music, performance re-imagining the Christian narrative for the present.

Congregation: Inclusive liturgy, worship and common life.

Compassion: Empowering congregations to address social need.

We support churches in reimagining themselves and society. This is about churches engaging in – our 4 Cs – investing in two, three or all four at the same time. We work with churches moving beyond conventional notions of church, being open to partnership and collaboration with others in the wider world.

Meeting: Thursday 23 February 2023, (*On Zoom*)

This is the last DS meeting of the triennium (3-year term)

The meeting was opened in prayer by Revd Michelle Edmunds.

Main Topic: Helping children thrive not just survive!

Speaker: Mark Russell, CEO Children’s Society

This talk from Conference 2022 is available on the Southwark website, follow this link:

<https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/diocesan-conference-2022/>

I urge you to watch this amazing presentation by Mark Russell from the (Church of England’s) Children Society. Mark is inspiring, amusing and above all – challenging!

After the talk the meeting divided into groups of three over Zoom. Each group was asked to discuss some of the issues raised and then feedback the outcome to the meeting.

Questions following the talk were:

1. What could your parish do to help strengthen families in your community?
2. Children need space; could you provide that?
3. ‘Good, old fashioned youth work’ is recommended; could your parish do that?
4. Could PCCs educate themselves about abuse online so that they could tell others, and look out for signs?
5. If you were to pester your MP on this, what aspect would your parish concentrate on?
6. Is there access to free food in your parish? Could you see your parish’s way to provide it?
7. Might a PCC link up with the Children’s Society and see what it could do with their help?

Notice of future events

1. “Magnificat”, at St Bede’s school in Redhill, for lay people, speaker: Elaine Stalky. Saturday, March 2, 2024, 10 am - 4 pm.
2. The Big One, April 21, 22, & 23, climate action, Christian based protest, in London, St John’s Waterloo and parliament square. A Walk from Clapham junction to Waterloo, literature available on request, Helen Ainsworth.
3. Iconography exhibition, at St Lawrence's Church, Caterham, Surrey. On 23 April -7 May 2023 Icons, drawings, frescos and illuminations by the local traditional byzantine iconographer Hanna-LeenaWard. Open 24 April 12:00 – 19:00 daily. The opening night on 23 April starts with Evensong at 18:00 in St Mary's church followed by a viewing of the icons at St Lawrence's church next door from 18:45 – 21:00. There are daily icon painting classes from 10:00 – 14:00 at St Lawrence's church during the exhibition: £35 daily. All levels welcome.

The Chair announced that Barbara Verco has stepped down from her role as DS treasurer. Michelle thanked Barbara for many years loyal service as treasurer and for all that she has done.

Here are details of a biennial conference for DS reps, from an email dated 11 March 2023. It is probably too late for you this time, but I include the details as an illustration of what is available.

Dear Deanery Synod member,
there are still some spaces on this conference for DS members. See details below:

A full programme and speaker list can be found at:
https://www.nationaldeaneries.net/?page_id=8843

Please see: <https://www.yarnfieldpark.com/> for the venue and accommodation. The conference will be paid for by Southwark Diocese with travel expenses reimbursed afterwards. If you would like to book a place or have any questions, please contact

Magdalena Staron (Mission Support Administrator):
Magdalena.Staron@southwark.anglican.org
Tel: 020 7939 99473

Deanery Briefing LIVE! – the first National Deaneries conference for over four years – will bring together leaders and experts to tackle head on and delve in deeper with “how to” breakout sessions and workshops addressing key issues to respond to the challenge of the national agenda.

All this with the opportunity to network and exchange experiences with our deanery colleagues.



Having read this far you are probably surprised at how much there is going on in and around the Deanery of Tandridge. There are many activities to get involved with. I think my role as DS representative is to pass on as much information about these activities as I can. As I am now stepping down I expect the next DS rep will take up the challenge in their own style.

Future Tandridge Deanery Synod Meetings:

14 June 2023, at 7.30 pm, St John’s hurst green

Sat 4 November, at 10.00 am, venue TBC, probably ZOOM

End of annual Deanery Synod report, prepared by David Spruce & Barbara Verco.