

**Church Administrator: Sally Banks**  
The Old School, Poyle Road, Tongham  
Surrey GU10 1DS

## Meeting Notes from Deanery Synod, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### Introduction

The meeting was hosted at the Church on the Heath, in Fleet. Our opening worship was led by Revd Patrick Butler (and his guitar), and then he spoke about encouragements and challenges at the Church on the Heath. This is a new ecumenical church, established 10 years ago, to serve the new community at Elvetham Heath, and is very close in nature to the new church at Wellesley. Starting with a congregation of only 25, the church has grown, and now has a church family of around 150 adults and 50-60 children on a Sunday.

Patrick's greatest encouragement is the church family, which includes lots of young families with children. Challenges include finding a sustainable model of leadership to avoid burnout (sounds familiar?), and how to move forward with their children's ministry.

### Mission in the Deanery

George Newton updated us on **Wellesley** – the good news is that a Pioneer Minister has been appointed! Jackie Maw will be licenced on 8<sup>th</sup> September – please be praying for her as she moves into her new home, and begins her ministry.

George also mentioned that the results of Bishop Andrew's research on our **Common Purpose** will be coming soon – hopefully an update at our next meeting.

Also at the next meeting, Tonia Elliot will be bringing the results of the **Deanery Mapping**, which aims to assess both geographically and demographically what is happening in the Deanery, and what is being missed.

### General & Diocesan Synod update

George gave some information about how the Synods work, particularly for the benefit of new members. The important thing to realise is that we do have a voice. We can propose topics for debate from our Deanery Synod, which can then be debated at Diocesan Synod, and then put forward to General Synod. Issues which are debated in General Synod in turn flow back down to us, and from us out to our congregations.

James Lee is on General Synod, and he reported that the next meeting will be 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July in York, and will focus on Human Sexuality, aiming to share thinking and reach a better understanding. This will be a challenging topic so please be praying for this meeting.

### Waterways Chaplaincy Recap

George apologized for our packed agenda at the last meeting, which meant that we didn't get time to agree a resolution on this topic. We broke into small groups to talk about it, and the feeling of the meeting was that we would like to start an initiative in the Deanery – George will get in contact with Mark Chester to ask for help in getting this started.

Claire, Kay, Kathleen and I formed a St Paul's only discussion group – not strictly what we're supposed to do on these occasions! But useful thoughts emerged: In our community, it's not the canal where people choose to spend their free time, but rather the recreation ground or the pub! We liked the idea of using St Paul's t-shirts so that we can be visible and identifiable as belonging to St Paul's. Claire always wears her collar around the village, so that people know that she's their Vicar. Maybe the men's group could meet at the pub with friends; perhaps we could have a St Paul's team at the Quiz Night. These are all ways we can get alongside people in their '3<sup>rd</sup> place' and have good conversations!

## **The Changing Face of Pastoral Care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Clive Richardson**

The main focus for the meeting was Clive's session on carers. He had some quite detailed slides which weren't very visible, so I've attached them as an appendix. We also picked up a lot of leaflets and useful information to enable us to provide signposting to support services. See the noticeboard in the Old School for more information, or talk to Helen Rogers, who leads our Pastoral Team.

Clive talked about the issues faced by carers, who are unpaid, typically looking after a parent, a child, partner or friend. The person they are looking after depends on them, and this can cause huge pressures, causing a range of problems affecting their physical and mental wellbeing, and often affecting their employment too. Cuts to council budgets are expected to cause more pressure on adult social care in future.

Two key points emerged. Firstly, it is really important for carers to be registered as a carer with their GP. This will ensure that they get a carer's assessment, to determine what assistance they are entitled to. Secondly, churches need to be aware of carer's needs when thinking about outreach. Stretch existing activities rather than arrange new ones: enable carers to bring along the people they are caring for so they can get to groups or events; arrange regular visits to spend time with those being looked after, so that the carer can get out for a break. Be creative!

### **From Clive's final slide – 10 things churches can do:**

- Be aware of carers – who they are, what they need. Interview carers from congregation
- Pray- we're good at praying for the sick but what about those who care for them?
- Include - ensure church programmes, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, and activities don't exclude them
- Remember, a timely pastoral visit can be a Godsend - a regular visit from someone can be a lifeline!
- Ensure PA's and Parish Visitors have information that could be of help, staying in the know matters. Signposting.
- Help put Carers in touch with support groups and services
- Include local Carer support group contact details on notice boards
- Support and publicise the annual carers service and event at the Cathedral
- Encourage Youth Groups to be 'young carer' aware and friendly
- Offer your building as a venue for a support group

### **Next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at St Peter's Ash**

Sally Banks

16<sup>th</sup> June 2016