

CROYDON SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD 2016/17

1. Croydon South Deanery Synod met four times in 2016: three times for regular business and once for worship & celebration.
2. The focus of the meeting on 22nd February at St Andrew's, Coulsdon, was a presentation on Discipleship and Vocation by Rev Louise Ellis.

The key concepts of Discipleship were:

- Grace
- Scripture
- Prayer
- Witness
- Service
- Worship

The key concepts of Vocation were:

- Obedience
- Discernment (of our vocations – as individuals and formally)
- Wisdom
- Humility
- Trust
- Passion

Louise then described ways of discerning and encouraging discipleship & vocation in our church communities. Various formal discernment processes for the various kinds of ministry were on offer.

3. The gathering on 19th April at St John's, Old Coulsdon, included the Licensing by Bishop Jonathan of Rev Paul Roberts as Area Dean, and presentations to Rev Christine Spurway and Mr Nick Whitley, the retiring Area Dean and Lay Chair. This was followed by a period of refreshments and fellowship.

4. At St Mary's, Sanderstead, on 7th July, Synod welcomed Mrs Indrani Balachandran, All Saints', Sanderstead, as Lay Chair. The meeting then focussed on an interactive discussion about the purpose, mission and vision of the Deanery and Synod itself.

5. At St Swithun's, Purley, on 15th November the Purpose Statement (attached), derived from the work done at the July meeting, was presented. We also heard about the "Making Connections" mission which St Mark's, Woodcote, and St Swithun's would be holding from 27th November until 4th December. Rev Susan

Atkinson-Jones reported on the very successful “Faith Pictures” course held by St Antony’s, Hamsey Geen and St Edmund’s, Riddlesdown, in June-July 2016. Then, Ms Ruth Martin, Secretary of the Diocese of Southwark, gave a presentation on the work being done by the diocesan administration to resource the diocese to enable it to focus on Mission and Ministry. This included balancing the diocesan books, because eight years of deficits had sapped moral (now achieved). Issues around clergy housing – often a source of distraction to the clergy - had to be tackled urgently. Achievements in 2016 had included:

- Development of a Diocesan Vision and Purpose Statement, based on supporting parishes etc in the Mission of God.
- Development of Core Values.
- Production of long-term objectives.
- Achievement of a break-even budget.
- Setting Strategic Priorities.

6. Synod met for the last time in this triennium on 22nd February 2017. Churches had been asked to summarise their Mission Action Plans onto A3 posters. We were asked to group ourselves in threes, from different churches, and consider prayerfully the relevant posters. Later on there was an opportunity to study the posters we had not considered in this way. Synod received feed-back from Rev Fiona Weaver on the Mission held by St Mark’s and St Swithun’s before Christmas. This had been a great success but not in the way originally envisaged: whilst some new people had been drawn in, the main benefit was in members of the existing congregations talking to each other much more effectively. Then each church was asked to do a short presentation on their current joy & challenges, hopes & fears. It was not possible to get through all of these in the time available. So the remainder (including most of the Sanderstead churches) were held over until the next meeting.

7. As we are at the beginning of a new triennium, there will then be elections at our AGMs for lay representatives for the 2017-20 Synod. With Deaneries and their Synods becoming increasingly more important in the life of the Church, as we have to co-operate more and more, we hope more people will feel called to this role. Supporting material about what is involved etc will be available.

Chris Babbs

Synod/PCC Secretary

4/2/17

Revised 9/3/17