

THE PARISH OF ST ERKENWALD, BARKING

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

TO THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2018

Report from the Deanery Synod Representative

Deanery Synod Meetings and Representatives

Date	Speaker	Speaker's Subject	Venue
12/06/17		Election of Officers	St Patrick's, Barking
25/09/17	Emma Anderton: Children and Families Missioner	Intergenerational Church & Working with Children	Christ Church, Barking
20/11/17	Mark Spraggins, Diocesan Director of Finance	Parish/MMU Share Scheme	St Cedds, Dagenham
29/01/18	Helen Thorne	Domestic Abuse	St Thomas's, Dagenham
16/04/18	Jeremy Fraser, Lynne Bennett, Steven Hanna and Andrew Weston	Housing	St Elisabeth's Church, Dagenham

Deanery Synod Meetings and Representatives

Barking Deanery comprises 13 churches, each blessed with a minister who is automatically a Deanery Synod representative including Reverend Young Lee. Other representatives known as Lay Representatives (i.e. non ministers) are elected for a three year term. St Erkenwald is eligible for two Lay Representatives based on congregation size. Please do come forward if you would like to serve in this way. All meetings are open meetings with visitors welcome and minutes circulated to the PCC. Reports are provided by Diocesan and General Synod representatives at Deanery meetings. Electoral roll members can ask any question of General Synod and it will be answered.

Deanery Personnel

Revd Julie Fleming retired as Area Dean, Revd Martin Court commissioned as Area Dean Sep 17

Dean Gillespie was unanimously elected Lay Chair for the next 3 years Jun 17

Wendy Garton was unanimously elected Treasurer for the next 3 years Jun 17

Retirement of Ian Reid as Secretary, replaced by Sarah Haler

Death of Revd Christine Chambers of St Patrick's

Revd Tony Rablen retired

LOB grants

- £17,179 was requested and granted for Schools Chaplaincy (11-18 year olds).
- £25,000 was requested and granted for a Deanery Youth Minibus to enhance and extend youth work within the Barking and Dagenham Deanery. This minibus is available to all the churches in the Barking and Dagenham Deanery.
- £15,000 was requested and granted in a bid for funding for the Hope 4 Barking Dagenham Nightshelter.
- £15,000 was requested and £7,500 was granted, match funded for Barking Churches Unite's "The Source" drop-in centre.
- Applications far exceeded funding, £10k grant limit for the future.

Refugee House

Revd Tony Rablen spoke about the Syrian Refugee Crisis and the need for a Working Group. On retirement he needs someone to take his place as a Deanery representative on this working group. There is a house available in Dagenham.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – guidance is on the C of E website for new regulations starting 2018

General Synod meetings took place in July with discussions and reports as follows:

- 32 reports available should any wish to see them. Legal documents go through 3 sessions in Synod.
- Canons 36 and 37 were amended making the vestments specified, optional, rather than mandatory, and allowing ministers to adopt a form of dress, other than a surplice or alb with scarf or stole, if the PCC agree. This essentially formalises what is already happening.
- A second amendment related to burial of suicide victims to remove the current exception which prevents the normal burial service and allows such victims to be buried in consecrated ground. Again, this is a formalisation of what is already happening. These amendments received final approval.
- Two reports relating to human sexuality, one on Welcoming Transgender People and another on Conversion Therapy calling for a petition to Government to halt Conversion Therapy as inhumane and unjust. There was heated debate on these topics particularly with regard to therapy for same-sex attraction. Clearly an emotional and painful subject, this was adjourned and scheduled to be brought up again at the next Synod.
- Kathy was asked if it were still permitted to refer people to organisations such as True Freedom Trust and Living Out. Kathy answered that it wasn't accepted that any kind of therapy could be sought for gender dysphoria etc and that the issue was back on the agenda for February. She raised the issue of gender versus sexuality. Lizzy made the distinction that giving help to those seeking it was different from enforcing it Kathy agreed that we should aid those who seek help but the Church of England has not changed its teaching on the institution of marriage in which one man and one woman enter into an exclusive relationship for life. Anything else is considered to be false teaching.

- Clarification was sought regarding the distinction between electric shock therapy and conversion therapy. Kathy elaborated and referred to misinterpretation of the word “therapy” as psychotherapy is clearly very different to conversion therapy.
- A report concerned clergy pensions and increased money from the Pensions Board.
- Another concerned the wellbeing of the Clergy; she spoke about being allowed to recruit outside people and the need for clergy to take sabbaticals.

True Freedom Trust (TFT)

A very moving testimony was shared by Director Jonathan Berry of TFT. May invite speaker to St Erkenwald.

Items requested for discussion

Five main issues identified at Standing Committee, namely Dementia, Funding, Mental Health, Homelessness and Extremism.

Please do ask us your questions or raise any items with us.

Much love, Theresa Ibrahim,

St Erkenwald Deanery Synod Lay representative