

Tandridge Deanery Synod

Report of the meeting held at St Peter's, Limpsfield on 15 October 2019

This was the last meeting for Revd Kathryn Percival, Area Dean, before moving on to join the clergy team at Portsmouth Cathedral as Canon Chancellor and Vice Dean. Her 'Collation and Installation' will take place at a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 15 December 2019. Lay Chair, Sue Mallinson paid tribute to Kathryn's three years as Area Dean during which she saw through the establishment of the new Tandridge Deanery, formed in September 2016. The two Deaneries of Caterham and Godstone, quite different in size and character, were amalgamated to become Southwark's largest deanery. Sue said, 'Kathryn had the ability to link us together and went for it with energy, enthusiasm, clear thinking, wit, innovation and some chuckling!'

Kathryn has been adept at choosing good speakers and singing Compline at the end of Synods. We have enjoyed her strong faith and good sense as we have worked together on interactive events, learning about each other. As a leaving gift, the Deanery presented Kathryn with a Portsmouth Cathedral cassock and accompanying ribbon embroidered with 'TANDRIDGE' to go inside the neckband to help her remember us. It has been an amazing beginning for a new deanery. We thank Kathryn for bringing us thus far.

Currently there is quite a bit of change amongst the clergy in the Deanery. Others, in addition to Kathryn, are moving on: James Percival, Team Rector of the Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry; Wendy Harvey is to retire in January 2020 as Minister in Charge of St Andrew's Limpsfield Church; James Ashton, currently Deanery Mission Enabler and Team Vicar in the Warlingham Team Ministry, will move within the Deanery to become Team Vicar at St Mary's, Oxted and St Peter's, Tandridge, in January 2020; Alison Way, Vicar of Christ Church, South Nutfield and Area Officer for Lay Mission and Ministry is moving to become Rector of the Benefices of Wincanton and Pen Selwood in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Revd Trevor Mapstone who had been licensed as Priest in Charge of St Mary's Caterham the previous day, was welcomed to his first Deanery Synod meeting.

Strength in Numbers *(focusing on the 'collaborative' strand of the Deanery Mission Action Plan)*

The main speaker at the meeting was Revd Raewynne Whiteley, Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry for Southwark Diocese. The essence of her talk was that although most of us think of ourselves as belonging to our parish, we are actually all one Church, but in many places, just like the early church. We were asked to think of things we can do together across parishes, sharing our gifts with others. Raewynne is available to come to parishes, to preach, run studies or lead quiet days.

Business Meeting

- People arriving at the meeting were greeted with a glass of Prosecco and an amazing spread of tasty canapés, for which we thank the members of St Peter's Church, Limpsfield. Has this set a precedent?!!
- The Archdeaconry Resources Centre in Bletchingley is being underused and it is hoped this will pick up by ordering new materials people will find useful - lists of suggestions from parishes were collected.
- Revd Sister Phaedra Pamhilon-Green, Rector of Bletchingley and Nutfield spoke about her work as one of the Bishop's 'deliverance ministers'. Exorcism is no longer carried out, but the Southwark Deliverance Team can be contacted if someone feels a presence in their home and they also offer support to a local priest trying to help someone who has contacted them. There are often mental health issues, perhaps past abuse and the person has just died. The hurt and pain can generate poltergeist activity.
- Deanery Synod lay representatives are in the final (3rd) year and new members will be elected at the APCMs in 2020. The number each parish is entitled to is based on the electoral roll figure presented at 2019 APCMs. Sue Mallinson will stand down as Lay Chair after 9 years.
- Elections to General Synod, for which Deanery Synod members form the electorate, will take place in 2020.
- Sutton Deanery has now been transferred from Croydon Archdeaconry to become part of the Reigate Archdeaconry, joining Reigate and Tandridge Deaneries.
- The next Deanery Synod meeting, which will be the last before the election of new lay members, is on Thursday 13 February 2020 at St John's, Hurst Green.

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