

CROYDON SOUTH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2018/19

Croydon South Deanery Synod met three times in 2018, in February, June & October. The February meeting was early enough to be included in last year's report but is also included here for completeness. Similarly, the first meeting of 2019, which had not taken place at the time the first version of this report was prepared for church AGMs, is also now included.

During the year, Synod completed its exploration of the Five Marks of Mission, having covered two of them in 2017.

The meeting on 7th February at Christ Church, Purley considered, and where necessary adopted, the new Rules and Constitution for Deaneries which had been approved by Diocesan Synod. We then turned to the Second Mark of Mission: To Teach, Baptise and Nurture New Believers. Each church gave an account of their approach to Baptism and its follow-up. A wide range of approaches was revealed, and many good ideas shared.

The meeting on 20th June was at St Mark's, Woodcote. The first major item of business was the conduct of elections to Diocesan Synod. Mrs Rosemary Kempzell of All Saints' was elected as a lay representative (subsequently joined by Mr Nick Whitley of Christ Church, Purley). Fr Grant Cohen (St Mary's & St James') and Rev Justine Middlemiss (All Saints', Kenley, & St Barnabas') were elected as clergy representatives.

We then considered the Third Mark of Mission – To Respond to Human Need by Loving Service. The session began with an informative and moving address by Mr Peter Hall, Co-ordinator of the Croydon Refugee Day Centre. He explained the many & varied needs of the local refugee population and the range of services provided by the Centre to help them. We then considered what needs there were locally with which the churches could help, and in what ways. We are very grateful to Rev Jeremy Groombridge for pulling together a handbook for churches of where to obtain information and assistance for various types of need.

The 2nd October session of Synod was at St Mary's, on The Fourth Mark of Mission – To Seek to Transform Unjust Structures of Society, to Challenge Violence of Every kind and to Pursue Peace & Reconciliation. A very well attended open meeting heard an inspiring address by Canon Andrew White of Peace and Reconciliation in the Middle East. Canon White will be well known to many from his time at St George's, Baghdad. He described his own spiritual journey and his work for reconciliation at St George's and subsequently.

In 2019 Synod will be considering the three headings of the Diocesan Vision:

Walking with Jesus and getting to know Jesus better as we journey on.

Welcoming all, embracing our diversity and seeking new ways of being church.

Growing in numbers, generosity, faith and discipleship as we grow God's Kingdom.

On 27th February at All Saints', Sanderstead, Revd Canon Jay Colwill, the Canon Missioner, spoke about the *Walking* with Jesus theme. He provided a very helpful explanation of how the various diocesan initiatives and targets fitted together. He also explained how the Mission Action Planning process could help us move towards a Fruitful Future, by defining

“here” (our current situation), “there” (where we wanted to be in terms of Mission) and how we got from one to the other, focused on the Five Marks of Mission.

We shall also be tackling the next stage of the project to Breathe New Life into Deaneries, which is a key element of the Vision. The first task was the appointment of a Deanery Leadership Team, to replace the current Standing Committee and the Deanery Pastoral Working Group.

Chris Babbs

PCC/Synod Secretary

7/4/19