

## Notes of the Tower Hamlets Deanery Synod – 3 July 2017

7pm at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine.

Attended by 12 clergy, 22 laity, 2 guests and 1 guest Ordinand.

The meeting was chaired by Andy Rider.

### 1. Welcome & Evening Prayer

Andy welcomed returning and new members of Synod, gratefully welcomed the Master of RFSK amongst us and welcomed our special guests; the Rt Hon Jim Fitzpatrick MP and his wife Sheila.

Evening Prayer was led by Andy marking Thomas the Apostle.

### 2. Business

- a. Elections to Synodical officer positions, Lay Chair and 3 Lay members of Standing Committee will take place by email over the summer and be ratified when we meet at the Autumn Synod.
- b. We ratified the decision of Standing Committee that Naomi Agyekum be appointed as a Deanery Governor to St Matthias CofE Primary School.

### 3. Rt Hon Jim Fitzpatrick – MP for Poplar and Limehouse

Andy once again welcomed Jim and his wife Sheila.

Mr Fitzpatrick spoke about his 20 years as a serving member of parliament and the various roles he has undertaken, he spoke of his busy monthly surgery where he has met over 10,000 people during his years of public service. He spoke of housing being the number one issue in Tower Hamlets. He referenced his previous career as a Firefighter and his current role leading an All Parties Group on Fire Safety.

Andy thanked him for his years of service and made a presentation of a personalised milk jug to Mr & Mrs Fitzpatrick.

Andy then prayed for our MP and for the recent increased national anxiety around fire risk in flats, with particular prayers for the family and friends who had that day lost a 17 year old who died jumping from a 4<sup>th</sup> floor flat in Tower Hamlets fearful that she might not get rescued.

### 4. BarBQ

We enjoyed a very generous and subsidised spread in the gardens of RFSK, Rev Mark Aitken spoke of current developments there and the shift in RFSK from Oasis to Sanctuary, he encouraged folks to visit and to make use of the facilities.

### Our next Synod

Monday 16 October 2016 at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine

Deanery business ratifying Standing Committee elections

Communities & the Church with Bishop Adrian