

## Minutes of Deanery Chapter 26 March 2015 at St Paul's Old Ford

Present: Brian Ralph (Chair), James Hughesdon (Host), Ed Dix, Bekki Rogers, Tom Pyke, Chris Newman-Day, Alan Green, Peter Turner, Kevin Scully, Debbie Frazer, Alexandra Lilley (Minutes)

Guests: Polly Arthur, Anne McTighe

1. James Hughesdon welcomed those present and shared briefly about the work of St Paul's Old Ford.
2. Congratulations were extended to the Ven. Rachel Treweek for her appointment as Bishop of Gloucester.

### DEVELOPMENTS IN QEOP

3. Annie McTighe shared about her work as a pioneer minister in the Chelmsford Diocese, deployed to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. She explained some of the complexities of working across two dioceses and in an area which includes four boroughs: Waltham Forest, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney.

Annie also outlined some of the aspects of life in East Village, in which the average age of residents is 31 (the mode 28); there is little sense of community; many residents work in the City, with an average income of around £70k. There is also a disproportionately high number of people who have physical disabilities (wheelchair users) because the residential units were designed to be very accessible.

Successful outreach has occurred through hosting parties, prayer walking the park and discipling some local Christians, while encouraging them into the five local Anglican churches (or others). Annie is particularly encountering people with mental health issues, who are seeking pastoral care. She is also advocating for affordable housing whenever she meets with developers.

10,000 new residential units are in development across the whole area. Dave Pilkington, who works in community development for Poplar Harca, and is part of St Paul's Shadwell, has been commissioned by the Bishop of Stepney to conduct a mapping exercise of the existing networks and relationships with this area.

### PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

4. Polly Arthur shared an update on Pastoral Assistants, encouraging those present to consider the benefits to our parishes, our churches and ourselves. There are currently 36 Pastoral Assistants across Stepney. The group is ethnically diverse and much more reflective of the general church population and demography of Stepney than the clergy.

Pastoral Assistants are involved in a broad range of ministries, for example: visiting the housebound, sick and bereaved; working in night shelters and with homeless people; working as p/t hospital chaplains; visiting elderly and running lunch clubs; preparing people for baptism; working with refugees doing advocacy work; working in hospices; organising church welcome teams.

The cost of the training is £250 for a year-long course including retreat. The training is experiential rather than academic, encouraging listening skills and self-reflection. It involves three observational visits; one month shadowing the incumbent (for how ever many days/hours per week that they are offering once they have qualified); and two unaccompanied visits. Incumbents need to provide a role description and supervision. Ongoing training is provided for the first two years – six sessions in total including retreats.

The next course starts on 14 April, with interviews on 7 and 9 April. Contact Polly on 0207 3592571 for more information.

## INTERFAITH UPDATE

5. Alan Green shared how Britain First has increased their activity in the borough, which has been widely condemned.

A third-party hate reporting site is being launched, so people don't need to go to the police, which for some can be intimidating. Alan emphasised the importance of having a variety of places to report hate crime and to encourage clergy to report their own experience of hate crime, even small incidents e.g. graffiti on church buildings. The Council is duty-bound to remove such graffiti within 24 hours.

Homophobic hate crime and disabled hate crime are particularly under-reported.

## SAFEGUARDING

6. There was a reminder for all clergy to complete safeguarding training before their APCM - and all safeguarding officers on the PCC must have completed the training too.

## RESIDENTIAL

7. Ed Dix, Bekki Rogers and Kevin Scully are working on the plans for our deanery residential on 22-23 June at Pleshey.