

Tower Hamlets clergy Chapter meeting

St Matthew's Bethnal Green

8am Eucharist, 8.30am breakfast, 9am meeting

Present: Revd's Scully, Thorpe, Green A, Hugesdon, Hall, Atkinson, Green R, McCalla, Dix, Ralph, Pike, Green F, Hodges, Ainsworth. With: Tom, Intern on placement at CC Isle of Dogs, Jan & Pat with a wonderful breakfast selection including Beigels fresh from Beigel Bake (the orange one) at the top of Brick Lane.

Kevin told us about the crucifix having been stolen and returned - story on his blog:
<http://www.kevin-scully.com/1/post/2014/03/take-up-the-cross.html>

1. Stepney Area Intern Scheme

Fiona Green gave an update. Purpose: help people explore their vocation in an inner city setting and help the parishes they are serving. Currently an 11 month scheme, Sept-August.

Key elements:

A) parish placement

B) community living (4 currently living in a house in De Beauvoir)

C) theological training (St Mellitus, Area office and CTC)

D) vocational discernment

There have been 4 interns this year. At least 4 again (possible expansion to 8) in 2014/15. Parish clergy are asked to consider having a placement. Looking for parishes that can offer a breadth of experience and clergy that can offer time to coach/manage the intern.

Tom Pike & Jane Hodges, having an intern is a 'force multiplier'. Supervision time is important. Next steps: Spread the word, especially among young people discerning vocation. To have an intern parishes to get PCC approval and offer £1500/year (the rest subsidised). Expressions of interest to Fiona Green, interviews in April.

2. Area Conference & Strategy

Rod Green is Chairing planning for the Stepney Area Conference at High Leigh 1&2 October (only 36 hours). This replaces summer Chapter conference.

Content: to reflect on 1. Capital Vision 2020, 2. the contextual analysis, 3. the Stepney Area church planting strategy. Each Deanery is to present something. Angus R to be a keynote speaker on contextual analysis and Bishop also a keynote speaker as well. A formal dinner is part of the plan.

Andy Rider would say: 'strategy is what makes for a healthy deanery'. Rod G took notes on a discussion which touched on our responses to strategy. Next steps: to discuss at Deanery Synod and subsequent Chapter meeting. Clusters welcome to do so and feed in reflections to Rod Green.

3. Ministry to and with deaf and BSL people.

Kevin asked, on behalf of the Chaplain to the Deaf clergy answers to the following questions (replies to Kevin – in March?)

- Do you know of any Church or community projects/ meetings within your area that are for or include Deaf BSL users?

- Do you know of any Deaf people in any of the parishes?
- Do any of the parishes have signing/ BSL interpretation for their services?
- Have any of the clergy been approached by Deaf people for baptisms, weddings or funeral services?
- Are there any lay folks within the parishes who work with Deaf BSL users, or who have signing skills - (e.g. have Deaf parents or family members). *They would be a useful contact and may become advocates for work among Deaf people in the Deanery in the future.*
- Are your youth leaders/ children's workers aware of any projects locally (or even nationally) that include Deaf people, that we can plug into or replicate locally?
Is there any church Youth work that includes Deaf young people?
Is there any church children's work that includes Deaf children?
- Can there be a possibility to include Deaf people in future within existing work?

4. Other business.

Brian Ralph: has just been to Holy Land with group of young people (Raines Foundation Holy Land trip). Next leading trip in May and will bring dates options to next Chapter. There is a Thursday lunch group of 30 young people regularly meeting as a form of 'CU' at Raines – v encouraging.

Alan Green: the Tower Hamlets burial subsidy scheme is being resurrected. Proposal has returned to Scrutiny Committee to consider 3 possible sites to buy for new burials as a Tower Hamlets cemetery. Clergy to be invited to engage with this.

Next meeting: 3 April, 12 noon, St Paul's Shadwell

P.S. new historical resource: OS maps of London from 1894-8 overlaid with current Google Earth picture of the city:

<http://maps.google.com/gallery/details?id=zs2aHyi7W8Ek.kggHTef2F49I&hl=en>