

Notes of the Tower Hamlets Deanery Synod - 19 February 2013

7.30pm at Royal London Hospital

Attended by 12 clergy and 15 laity

Evening Prayer led by Rev David Rushton in The Sanctuary followed by refreshments

Rev Andy Rider welcomed Rev Mark Aitken, the new Master of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine

An Introduction to Hospital Chaplaincy Today by Rev David Rushton

David is the Lead Chaplain at Royal London Hospital and holds the old title of Hospitillar of St Bartholomew's, both of which fall under Barts Health NHS Trust. He was appointed three years ago after secondment from King's College Hospital and, prior to that, four years of parish life.

The Chaplaincy has changed enormously over the last 12 months and is now opened up to all faiths. David works with two members of staff – the first ever woman in the role and an imam. Many conversations take place with patients and their families as their faith is tested. Quality of care and valuing patients, their families and staff is the prime issue, but much time is taken up with paperwork, such as risk assessments and cost calculations. The provision of good pastoral care is a big challenge. The support of faith communities is very valuable in these circumstances and David invited the Deanery to provide input to the monthly board meetings, particularly in areas surrounding patient experience. Given that all of the parishioners in TH Deanery would fall under Barts Health, David invited those present to take information leaflets about the bereavement service, the St Paul's Cathedral services and the Chaplaincy leaflet. David's contact details can be found on-line.

Discussing Clergy Support

Andy asked those present to divide into cluster groups to consider two questions concerning clergy support. Responses as follows.

1. What good clergy support have you seen?

- Use of lay members of congregation to lead evening services and take communion to sick
- Ministerial reviews, including lay input
- Mentoring and specific supervision
- Positive responses from parishioners
- Cluster beers
- Praying with peers

2. What things would you like to see in place and offered to clergy?

- The continued support of the Bishop and Arch Deacon
- Training, etc, as a result of ministerial review
- Mentoring, including lay appraisal
- Support across parishes in areas such as admin
- Clergy to feel able to take time off
- Support from PCCs, parishioners and other clergy

What can we do better together, than apart?

Adam Atkinson, founder member of the Shoreditch Group, shared his experience of how the group came together and its impact. The Shoreditch Group was a group of small to medium sized Christian organisations that came together to bring about positive change in a very deprived area. Churches became anchor institutions working with many different organisations, all with different approaches. By working together many projects were delivered and positive impacts achieved, including a time bank, a food bank, CitySafe Havens and a project with ex-offenders working in the community. Differences were made by collaborating, capacity building, finding resources and connecting people.

Andy invited those present to think about what TH Deanery could do better together. **There were calls for help at the TH nightshelters, a call for help with premises for the TH Food Bank and suggestions for providing a voluntary one-stop shop and money management service. To be discussed further at the next Deanery Synod.**

Deanery Business, News and AOB

- Tracy Miller nominated as LDBS representative by Rev Alan Green, seconded by Andy. Carried unanimously.
- The Deanery was unable to approve Mrs Kerry Walker as governor of Stepney Greencoats CofE Primary School as supporting documentation had not been provided nor was anyone present to recommend. Rev Alan Green advised that if there is an urgent need to place a governor this could be done by the Area Dean between meetings, and formally ratified at the next Synod meeting. *Andy to liaise with Rev Trevor Critchlow.*
- Rev Tom Pike reported that there are several Diocesan governorships vacant in his parish. The Diocese is unable to help with placements. Tom noted that Diocesan governors should not be from the same parish as the school. Andy called for networking across the Deanery and any nominations/suggestions for governors to be directed to Tom.
- An annual contribution to the Deanery Fund will be sought this year from each parish - £50 per parish and £25 for each extra stipendiary clergy they may have. Requests for payment will be made once the administration of the bank account is up to date (ie new signatories) so would likely be in a couple of months' time.
- Rev Alan Green will continue to be the Borough Chaplain and Interfaith Representative. Alan advised that he could be approached for advice regarding any dealings with LBTH as he had amassed plenty of experience. Health and Safety issues are a particular speciality.

The next Synod – Wednesday 26 June, 7.30pm at St Benet's QMU

Please also note: 23 May - Common Fund meeting of Clergy Wardens & Treasurers at Christ Church Spitalfields (Possible venue change to Raines)