

NOTES

Present *Apologies

Bethnal Green	Bow Group	Docklands	Stepney & Wapping	Chaplains + Retired
Alan Green	Cris Rogers	Ed Dix	Jonathan Beswick *	Fiona Stewart-Darling
Christine Hall	Beki Rogers *	Jane Hodges	Bp Robert Ladd	Barbara Hume *
Andy Rider	Tim May	Matt Wall	Richard Springer *	Ella Sharples
Darren Wolf	James Hughesdon	Marcus Nodder	Vienna McArthy	Peter Turner
Erin Clark	Dave Pilkington	Tom Pyke	Allana Harris *	Tasha Critchlow
Sr Judith Blackburn	April Keech	Richard Bray	Josh Harris *	Nigel Copsey
Heather Atkinson	Brian Ralph		Angus Ritchie *	Ven Lyle Dennen
Chris Newman-Day*	Stuart Lee *		Phil Williams	Nick Hendersen
	Bernadette Hegarty		Mark Bishop	
			Peter McGeary *	
			Trevor Critchlow	

19 clergy were present – we were joined by the St Mary's intern; Hannah, and Amber; a St Matthews placement student and the Bishop of Stepney

Matt led us in midday worship and provided a great lunch.

We welcomed the Bishop, Mark Bishop and Tim as incumbent of St Mary's. Later Heather arrived and we congratulated her on becoming rector of St Peters.

St Nicks

Jane is currently on Study Leave. Aberfeldy like many estates in the UK is facing all sorts of social challenges and yet receiving a very low level of support. St Nicks is currently looking to work with a youth-work apprentice, and seeking on-going funding for their children's worker.

Conversation with the Bishop

+Joanne shared her ministerial story, described her family and confessed that she supports Middlesbrough.

+Joanne said that urban ministry excites her and Stepney has to be one of the best places to exercise that. She then invited comments and stories so that she might better understand Tower Hamlets and the Church of England therein.

Alan: Knife crime & crack dealing are real issues for our parishes, the wealth differentiation is colossal, meanwhile housing development continues at a pace – the church is engaged; it's variety of engagement is a real strength.

Tim: there is a very real fascination with the church to be found in pubs and cafes. "I don't believe in God but I miss him" We live in neighbourhood locations with network lives.

Richard: there truly is a large Bengali Muslim community here, whilst historically they may have kept themselves separate that is changing, recently baptised a Bengali man.

Heather: 12 years of failing schools are on the turn, losing Raines was a disaster, but generally schools are opening up to churches.

Erin: People are seeking reasons to celebrate, part of our ministry is to point people to hope & celebrate with them

Christine: We have lots of concerts and those on the fringe want conversations about prayer, our concert bar challenges expectations

+Joanne to Amber and Hannah – tell me about being young round here?

Amber: I grew up in Bethnal Green, our school was very integrated, Rev Kevin was a great male role model to those of us without them.

Hannah: my youth-group are hopeful and aspirational, business's seem to be reaching out more

James: Our 'Bible in the pub' is growing in popularity, this week Matthew who only began to come to church a year ago, was leading the study.

Phil: Our deanery Chapter is a great strength and source of hope, 23 of us going on retreat together, tho diverse in our churchmanship, we care for each other, we are putting a broken church back together.

Bernadette: I live my Rnp with God and then beyond that, in the parish: Rnps take time but are so empowering, there is a greater openness in our community, discussions even on scripture.

Andy: WE have celebrated in 15 years, a new barge church at Canary Wharf, a new church building in Millwall, and soon to take delivery of a new barge church on QEOP. We've seen renewal of churches through planting, grafts, hard work and good appointments.

Ed: Church without buildings had one identity; we are now discovering a new one!, our church wants to be visible in the midst of our community, and this is true right through LBTH.

James: Our Barge is an example of Deaneries, Area and Diocese working together –a good news story.

Angus: 4 new lampposts in our garden through community working together, now they have confidence to go the next step.

Andy CMX?

Darren: Church multiplication is exciting, Plants in LBTH have been good but we still barely see 1% in church, there is still lots to be done that is creative and brave

Mark: London looks to the East End for models of reform and new ideas, grass roots dreams and a pioneering spirit is growing in the East End

Erin: This is a great Deanery, a special place, not all of us are well resourced but we make things happen.

Richard: Many of us have had 2-3 posts in LTBH

Matt: Tower Hamlets has a real sense of place.

+Joanne: I've just been asked to supervise a thesis on the place of 'the vicarage' in city life.

Deanery News

1. Foodbank plant from St Mary's to St Matthews up and running soon (flier to follow). – support welcome.
2. Healing school with Lyn Button at ST Lukes 21-23 November – all welcome.
3. Nightshelter about to restart next week.
4. St Johns 191st Dedication festival with Paula Gooder and +Joanne W16 October – all welcome.
5. ST Marys Bow are exploring 'Green Spaces' please contact us if you want to join us.
6. Deanery retreat bookings closed – details being worked up – see you there, briefing emails out soon.
7. Bishops Welcome Service this Friday at St Marys Islington
8. Bishops tour of Tower Hamlets 14-20 October.

Notes: AR – 27 Sept. 2019

Next meetings

Deanery Synod: T15 October – RFSK – Bishop Robert Ladds on 'A Priestly Spiritual Life'

Deanery Chapter: W13 November at SPS with Bishop Robert Ladds on 'A priestly spiritual life'

<http://www.thcofe.org>

