

## NOTES

Present \*Apologies

<b>Bethnal Green</b> Alan Green <b>Christine Hall</b> <b>Andy Rider</b> <b>Darren Wolf</b> <b>Erin Clark</b> Sr Judith Blackburn <b>Heather Atkinson</b> <b>Chris Newman-Day</b>	<b>Bow Group</b> Cris Rogers Beki Rogers * <i>long term</i> <b>Tim May</b> James Hughesdon * Dave Pilkington * <b>April Keech</b> Brian Ralph * Stuart Lee * <b>Bernadette Hegarty</b>	<b>Docklands</b> <b>Ed Dix</b> <b>Jane Hodges</b> Matt Wall * Marcus Nodder Tom Pyke <b>Richard Bray</b>	<b>Stepney &amp; Wapping</b> Jonathan Beswick * Bp Robert Ladd <b>Richard Springer</b> <b>Vienna McArthy</b> <b>Allana Harris</b> <b>Josh Harris</b> <b>Angus Ritchie</b> <b>Phil Williams</b> Mark Bishop * Peter McGeary * Trevor Critchlow	<b>Chaplains + Retired</b> <b>Fiona Stewart-Darling</b> Barbara Hume * Ella Sharples * Peter Turner Tasha Critchlow Nigel Copsey Ven Lyle Dennen Nick Hendersen
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*18 clergy were present – we were joined by Kaitlin and ordinand at SGitE and their Resource Church coach Marie. SGitE led us in midday prayers and gave us a great home cooked lunch.*

### St George in the East & a conversation about Resource Churches

Richard introduced Resource churches and the SGitE experience so far. See his notes on the following page.

### A conversation about Deanery Strategy

Andy introduced the current process around devising strategy at Diocesan, Area and Deanery level with Acts 4 being a key starting place that has been discerned by the Bishops.

The emerging themes in the London Plan are: Growth, Discipleship, Young People & Compassion.

The questions when we meet next month are: As a deanery, how could we grow in each of the areas of the London Plan? What are we willing to give up to do this? What support or resources do we need from the outside?

We then worked in pairs to answer two more immediate questions:

- What are the 2 most important things we need to change in the Stepney area to enable growth?*
  - Combine truly being a church of and not only for the poor and marginalised with helping people come to faith in Jesus
  - Confidence in the gospel + Passion for Jesus to be known
  - Alignment of mission and assets + creativity with the parish system
  - Sharing clerical resources + working with one another in authentic partnering
  - If we do believe Acts 4.32-35, can all TH Churches share their resources equally to grow the kingdom? + it creates accountability
  - Sharing clergy + authentic partnerships of churches (laity)
  - Better at making disciples + stop poverty mindset + foster leader progression + bigger ambition for growing church
  - Making church outward looking
  - Permission for mission regardless of parish boundaries + more use of property resources for mission development
  - More team ministry / parish mergers + less incumbents
  - Personnel / support / shared people / support with buildings and ops + squeezed resources – ministry & mission
- What are the biggest barriers to seeing that change happen?*
  - Churches broadening the gospel such that it is ultimately subverted & denied
  - Lack of desire + we need more courage and imagination
  - Reluctance to be courageous and change
  - Fear + vested interests
  - More structured support for church leaders + rebuild selection/ordination/training + leadership development
  - Competing about numbers
  - Clergy
  - Needing to develop discipleship models that work in this context

Our Deanery strategy conversation will continue at our next Chapter and Synod each with Bishop Joanne.

## Deanery News

1. April – Concrete Youth Day at St Pauls Old Ford details already sent round
2. Christine – Holocaust Memorial this Sunday, please pray for Nelson St Synagogue (roof damage)
3. Heather – a new Street Pastors video has been launched this week – do use it to spread the story.
4. Erin – Bethnal Green Foodbank will start at St Matthews 24 Jan and operate 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month
5. Roger – Carol Rider is being licensed this Thursday; LLM for her work at RFSK.

Notes: AR 20.Jan.2020

### Next meetings

Deanery Chapter 27 Feb with Bishop Joanne at CCS – Deanery Strategy  
Deanery Synod 12 March with Bishop Joanne St Lukes Millwall – Deanery Strategy

<http://www.thcofe.org>



## St George's Resource Church session:

St George-in-the-East became a resource church in Autumn 2018 after designation earlier that same year. Resource Church funding is for three years with targets set over 6 years to 2024.

The resource church project is designed to encourage growth of our average weekly attendance (by over 100 by 2024) and the weekly attendance of churches the resource church partners with (collectively by over 100) - the first of these is St Matthew's Bethnal Green. Plus churches that our curates may well lead in the period 2022-2024.

St George's has five clergy in Holy Orders, but we are all part-time, the equivalent of three clergy.

St George's is known for community organising. An important methodology for us. Our work is to pair this with a growing sense of discernment for every person we know to become lay leaders in all their diversity.

Three stories of people to highlight what we've been doing in our church:

Allan (*security guard*), long-term member of the congregation. He testifies to a huge sense of accomplishment and energy through social justice work (e.g. the gardens lighting campaign)

But this same energy has seen newer Christians take a slightly different journey – *David (refugee)* and *Ivonne (Latino low-wage worker)* have been drawn into the church in the last 12 months but are this year wanting to work out how to grow St George's by intentionally leading missional work that draws in more refugees and Latinos. This is justice work leading to missional growth. One needn't negate the other.

*Is there someone in your congregation who has said something similar or who you think might have a passion for mission based on their own experiences?*

Three things:

1. Ivonne, David, Allan have been drawn into further discipleship through the emphasis on the church meeting them where they are at.
2. St George's grows through the people of St George's not the programmes of St George's.
3. They are local so the likelihood of their passions being discovered and matched by other locals is greater (Nicole and Paula)

If you want to harness the power of community organising in your church, we are in partnership with CTC to do this. Visit [www.theology-centre.org](http://www.theology-centre.org) for more information. *Introduce Erin...*

*Erin shares briefly her experience of working with us.*

Finally, we thought growth would happen through plant mini-worshipping communities that stand-alone but they simply draw people like Ivonne into Sundays. Choir Church have directly connected us to five families that now worship with us on Sundays. We are excited by the prospect of developing worshipping communities that meet, for us, sacramentally, but which draw people into Sundays too.

Three stations: to explore the story of Choir Church (Mthr Vienna), Worship Table (Shermara Fletcher) or to hear more about congregational development and organising in a church (with me and Caitlin)...