

Present \*Apologies

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

20 clergy were present.

We welcomed our new curates Callum & Tracy and did a round of introductions.

Tom Pyke and Tracy Brown of Christ Church Isle of Dogs led Midday Prayers.

### 'Black Lives Matter' Richard Springer Dean of Cultural Diversity

Our main topic was a facilitated conversation led by Richard around the issues of racial injustice and the Church of England, asking how this impacts us within the Deanery and beyond.

- Richard invited us all to consider in breakout rooms how we felt receiving the Chapter invite email saying that this would be our conversation today.
- Richard spoke of his own story through discernment to priesthood today and how he has personally been subject to 10-12 unrelated personal incidents of racism by people employed by the church, people who do not know each other and are not acting in an organised way but how these when grossed up across the diocese with other clergy of colour would amount to around 1000 acts of micro-aggression – which without doubt creates a culture out of accord with the gospel.
- Richard pointed out that in our meeting there were just two clergy of colour, that Islington has a lower proportion and Hackney higher but that across the area the numbers tell the story – a story which means that there has to be racism somewhere for this to be the case.

Are we willing to change? If we want Easter Sunday to dawn in the church for cultural diversity, we will need to put things to death and struggle through Easter Saturday.

- Richard finished by reminding us this is about relationships, just as when we discussed this a few years back in Chapter we need to ask which black or other person of colour are we excited about and how will we invest in them?

There will be another opportunity to converse on this on Thursday 17 September 4-5.30 – we need to keep the conversation and action alive even as the George Floyd story fades from the TV screens.

Andy shared how the Stepney Area is asking for cultural diversity to be a 5<sup>th</sup> ambition in the emerging Diocesan Strategy. And how he is asking for an audit of discernees of colour who (over the last 3 years) have not been put forward to BAP or have got to BAP only to be turned down.

### CROSSTEACH ADVERT

Richard Bray gave a shout out for Crossteach who work with schools and children to bring about a clear Christian teaching within schools and families – Brigid Amoatin is the Tower Hamlets rep. An introductory video and her contact details were sent out in the email with these Notes.

### 'Opening up for worship'

Was to have been our mini topic but time was against us and people were asked to email Andy with 'lessons learnt' for others to read. Some from Richard Bray were included in the email sent out with these notes.

*Our next Chapter\* will be an informal time to hand over Area Deanship to Jane Hodges.*

*Notes: AR 15 July 2020*

*Next meetings Cluster Beers over the Summer were encouraged by the Area Dean*

Deanery Synod: September Soiree tbc / Autumn Synod 13 October St Columba's Barge.

Deanery Chapter: August Cluster Beers / \*Monday 14 September 12noon Bow Church