

HILLINGDON DEANERY SYNOD REPORT: 2021-2022

Since the APCM held on 27.04.21, our church has been represented on Hillingdon Deanery Synod by **Jo Barraclough, Ruth Bitok, Chris Hoppett, Sarah Jacob, Judith Kaplan, Karen Overy, Helen Pye-Beraet, Judith Roberts** and **Alison Rollin**. The Area Dean is the Revd. Richard Young, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Yiewsley. *[NB: At the APCM held on 15.3.22, Bethan Dartnaill replaced Jo Barraclough.]*

Synod normally meets three times per year. The meetings include **talks/presentations** on specific topics of wide interest, and are open to anyone to attend; one meeting is designated for Synod business which includes reports from the Area Dean (noting any new appointments or departures), from the Deanery Treasurer, Willesden Area Council, London Diocesan Synod and General Synod; there may also be reports from Deanery Synod members who serve on the governing bodies of the Church schools within the Deanery.

(Visitors are welcome to attend every Deanery Synod meeting, but have no voting rights.)

Report on the proceedings of Hillingdon Deanery Synod: 2021-2022

22nd July 2021: St. Anselm's, Hayes

The previous Synod meeting, in February 2021, had been held on Zoom, so this was the first in-person meeting since February 2020. It included **four short presentations** from members of Deanery churches (St. Edmund of Canterbury, Hayes; St. Paul's, Ruislip Manor; St. Giles, Ickenham; and St. Margaret's, Uxbridge) about how they were able to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. This was followed by a prayer-walk and in-church prayer for St. Anselm's, marking the first anniversary of Fr Matthew Cashmore's licensing there as vicar.

5th October 2021: St. Matthew's, Yiewsley

The speaker at this meeting was **Rebecca Cooper-Jones**, a member of the Diocese of London's team of mediators and also a member of the Diocesan Facilitators Team. The topic was **Pastoral Principles for Living & Learning Well Together**. Although intended to enable the Church to discuss the issues we face around human sexuality by helping maintain a gracious, generous and Christ-like conversation, these principles can be applied in all situations, so that we may improve how, as Christians, we discuss issues about which we disagree deeply.

22nd February 2022: Bishop Ramsey School

This focused on growing the faith and developing the spirituality of children and young people, particularly exploring the role of home, church and school, working together. **Revd. Mary Hawes**, the National Children's and Youth Adviser for the Church of England, gave a presentation on the **Growing Faith Adventure** – a major national initiative to integrate young people more fully into the life of the church and to encourage development of their spiritual lives. There were short **presentations from six Deanery church schools** about current links, challenges and opportunities in serving children and young people. Finally, **James Wood**, Youth Worker in Uxbridge and the Willesden Area Youth Advocate, offered insights into how to engage young people spiritually.

The next three Synods take place on:

Thursday, 30th June 2022, at St. Paul's, Ruislip Manor (with Bp. Lusa; AGM). Topic: tbc.

Wednesday, 12th October 2022, at St. Andrew's, Uxbridge. Topic: tbc.

Thursday, 9th February 2023: venue and topic tbc

Alison Rollin
8th May, 2022