

## HILLINGDON DEANERY SYNOD REPORT: 2022-2023

Following the APCM held on 15.3.22, our church was represented on Hillingdon Deanery Synod by **Ruth Bitok, Bethan Dartnaill, Chris Hoppett, Sarah Jacob, Judith Kaplan, Karen Overy, Helen Pye-Beraet, Judith Roberts** and **Alison Rollin**. Karen Overy subsequently resigned, but was not replaced as the 3-yearly elections for DS members were due to take place at the 2023 APCM.

**NB** PCCs can now decide whether their DS members serve for *two* consecutive 3-year terms, and then stand down for the next 3-year period, or continue to serve without any break. (Elected PCC members normally have a year's break after 3 consecutive years.) Casual DS vacancies may be filled at either an APCM or a regular PCC meeting.

The Area Dean, Revd. Richard Young, has now completed his 5-year term of office. On 7<sup>th</sup> March, Bp Lusa announced the appointment of **Revd. Peter Mackenzie** as the new Area Dean, and **Revd. Andrew Studdert-Kennedy** as Assistant Area Dean, both to commence in April. Bp Lusa also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Revd Richard Young 'for the diligent, grace-filled, and committed way in which he has attended to his task as Area Dean of Hillingdon Deanery.'

Synod normally meets three times per year. The meetings include **talks/presentations** on specific topics of wide interest; 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: 2022-2023

#### **Thurs. 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022: St Paul's, Ruislip Manor**

The main focus of the evening was to give us the opportunity to meet and get to know the new Bishop of Willesden, **Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy**. Bp. Lusa spoke about the joys and challenges of the Willesden Area, and Hillingdon Deanery in particular. He's encouraged by people's longing for prayer and wanting to walk with and alongside each other, but he also recognised that some people are exhausted, so he urged us to take a break, but also to be open to what God is calling us to next. Finally, he exhorted all lay people to 'Love your clergy! – for they need affirmation!' A question-and-answer session with the Bishop was then followed by **Deanery Synod business**.

#### **Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022: St Matthew's, Yiewsley**

Two main speakers considered how we can respond to the cost of living crisis in Hillingdon. **Diane Faichney**, from West Drayton & Yiewsley's Foodbank and Advice Service, spoke about the high level of deprivation in the area, and the need for a *local* foodbank. **Alison Tsang** heads the Compassionate Communities team for the Diocese. The 5 team members listen to people's concerns, and offer advice. Questions for us to consider: What is happening in our communities? What is God calling us to do? How can we respond?

#### **Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023: St Andrew's, Uxbridge - Meeting Cancelled**

This meeting was cancelled just 24 hours beforehand, as the speaker, the theologian and author **Dr Paula Gooder**, Canon Chancellor at St Paul's Cathedral, was unfortunately ill. The topic was to have been *Deepening our Prayer Life*, and it is hoped that Dr Gooder will be able to attend a future meeting. If so, the details will be widely publicised, as all are welcome to attend.