

## **Enfield Deanery Synod Report**

St Andrew's Church sends two lay representatives to the Enfield Deanery Synod, currently Barrie Lane and Patience Wilson, as well as the Rev Dr Steve Griffiths. The Deanery Synod acts as link between the Parochial Church Councils of the area and the London Diocesan Synod, and provides an opportunity to bring together all the Anglican churches in the area.

### **Meeting 25 June 2015**

There were 2 substantive agenda items. First, there was a report from the Enfield Deanery Director for the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS). Church places were on the increase working with now 154 schools in the London Diocese, the majority of which were rated as good or outstanding. An election was to be held in the Autumn for an Enfield Deanery representative.

Secondly, there was a presentation on the *PSALM- Project for seniors and life-long Ministry* initiative. This is a Christian organisation working out of St Pancras Church on the Euston Road, supporting Churches to support older Christian on their faith journey as a vital area of mission, giving our ageing society. PSALM runs workshops on issues pertinent to ageing and life-long worship. Recent workshops had included: grandparenting issues; preparing for retirement; living with memory loss; living alone; aspects of loss; eating well in later life; living in a different world; obligations. Plans are being developed for a Deanery workshop.

### **Meeting 1 October 2015**

The main item was a very thought-provoking presentation by Rev Phil Sudell, Area Dean of W Haringey, on pilot work undertaken as part of the Capital Vision 2020 programme. This work – *Envisioning and equipping for everyday, everywhere discipleship* – had been led in partnership with the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and focused on whole life discipleship. The aim was to equip people to be confident to live and speak for Christ both within and beyond the church and be ambassadors for Christ. The challenge was to think about our “front lines” where we need to raise our heads above the parapet – our daily context where we can in however small a way be an ambassador for Christ.

The election for the representative to the LDBS was held; Father Stephen Taylor, St Michael's and All Angels, was duly elected

### **Meeting Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The main item on the agenda was a “Listening Exercise” presented by Bishop Rob who charged us to form groups and address two challenging questions:

- a) In what ways is our Church a blessing to the Community?
- b) In what ways does the Community serve as a blessing to our Church?

Lots of ideas were presented, particularly on what we as churches can offer our communities including facilities for community groups, special services, crisis support, stability in time of change. More challenging was to think about the blessings which the churches derive from the community, but a key theme was symbiosis - different people living together, recognising diversity and churches joining together.

There was also an update on the Enfield Night Shelter, which was now running through the winter. This joint project provides meals and a bed for low-risk homeless people on a rotating schedule between seven churches in the area; St Andrew's Southgate where the meeting was being held, was hosting the shelter that night. Is this something that our church can join for next winter?

**Patience Wilson**  
**April 2016**