

## Deanery Synod Summary for 2017/18 Session

*Deanery Synod met on four occasions after the triennial APCM elections.*

**1. Thursday 18th May 2017**, Meeting at St John Evangelist Walthamstow. Present: House of Clergy 7 House of laity 26.

Election of officer holders and members of the Deanery Pastoral & Standing Committee could not be held as current office holders remain in place until 31st May. Elections deferred to Synod meeting in October 2017.

A presentation was given by John (Tug) Wilson Lay Chair of the Deanery of Lichfield Staffs. He considered the role of the deanery and the elected Parish Rep to Deanery Synod. What do you expect from your deanery? What can you do for your deanery? Every deanery synod member may obtain further information from National Deaneries - [mail@nationaldeaneries.net](mailto:mail@nationaldeaneries.net).

Revd Canon Hugh Dibbins introduced 'Evangelism & the Third Age' a course designed for those who have retired from paid work: showing that they have a new life in Mission & Ministry. Contact: [hugh@dibbins1.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:hugh@dibbins1.orangehome.co.uk)

**2. Half-Away Day Saturday 21st October 2017** meeting at The Epicentre Leytonstone. House of Clergy 16 House of Laity 25.

Bp Peter Hill in attendance for item 1 only. His Charge to the Deanery was to challenge Synod Members to consider what contribution as Christians they could make which would make a difference to their own parishes and the local community.

This led on to the second item UK Citizens, introduced by Revd Vanessa Conant. She said 'that community organizing is democracy in action, winning victories that change lives and transform communities. Revd Lee Taylor discussed core principles of community organizing. Revd Andy Trenier considered how we might move beyond our churches and parishes to act together for social justice and the common good. This is very relevant just now with the approaching Council Elections on May 10th 2018. CitizensUK.org

Jonathan Bailey explained how Traidcraft might be organized within a parish. Details: [traidcraft.co.uk](http://traidcraft.co.uk)

The results of the election/re-election of new deanery officers and members of the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee were announced. In addition notification of the results will be sent on line to all parishes, by the Deanery Synod Secretary.

**3. Wednesday 29th November at The Cornerstone, Leyton.** House of Clergy 6. House of Laity 20. Seven parishes were unrepresented.

'How to engage with memory loss and build community.' Revd Steven Morris (Vicar of St Cuthberts Wembley Borough of Brent) gave an account of how he and his parishioners set up a 'Memory Cafe' to directly reach lonely senior people, some suffering from early dementia. It is inexpensive to run as basic requirements are space, tables, chairs, tea/coffee. Volunteers with two/three hours to spare in a week to listen to stories drawn from lifetimes of experience. Quizzes, leaflets etc are available on line. Revd Steven has written a booklet full of useful hints and ideas. 'Memory Cafe' - how to deal with memory

loss and build Community. . Published by Grove Books Ltd. Ridley House Cambridge, cost £3-95. available also from the Area Dean Revd Canon Christine Rablen.

**4. Tuesday 6th February at Chingford St Edmunds.** House of Clergy 14. House of Laity 23. Main item. Very Revd Nicholas Henshall Dean of Chelmsford Cathedral reflected on the Archbishops' Council's report 'Setting God's people Free' with biblical references and suggested implications for our church today. This led to an interesting debate in which other views and considerations were expressed. Copies of the Archbishops' Report are available from the Area Dean or on the Diocesan website.

It was noted that the first MMU in the Deanery was officially launched on 21st January 2018 at Chingford Ss Peter & Paul Chingford, in the presence of the Bishop of Barking Rt. Revd Peter Hill. Parishes involved are Chingford Ss Peter & Paul, Walthamstow Team Ministry and Leyton St Catherine & St Paul (The Cornerstone).