

Minutes of Chapter Meeting held at 12.00 p.m. on 18 May 2016 at the chapel of Bishop Justus School

Present - Katrina Barnes, Roger Bristow, Liz Davis, Paul Farthing, Richard Finch, Lyn Hallam, Anne Jablonski, Napo John, Dave Johnston, Alan Keeler, Angela King, Alan Mustoe, Alison Newman, Richard Norman, Steve Varney

Apologies - Julie Bowen, Jan Durrans, Richard Handforth, David Herbert, David Howath, June Hurn, Andrew Jablonski, Andrew McClellan, Ruth Peet

Other - Iain Broomfield, George Collett, Andy Hobbs, Matt Lloyd, Carol Morisson, Anne Townsend

The Chapter were welcomed by the Area Dean and Richard Finch the chaplain of Bishop Justus was thanks for his hospitality.

Jan Durrens has been appointed as the Vicar of St. Peter Thanet in Broadstairs

Christian Aid Week - We discussed the practices of collecting for Christian Aid Week. These ranged from delivering and collecting at each house in the parish, delivering but asking residents to return envelopes, encouraging residents to make online donations or by text, or not doing anything anymore. There have been difficulties as you may now not knock if the resident has a notice asking such. Some parishes share collecting with other denominations. In Bromley David Rowedder organises a scheme.

Schools - Richard Finch spoke of being the Chaplain of Bishop Justus secondary school and Trinity primary school. He has pastoral care of staff and students, arranges collective worship and charitable activities. His is a Trust Appointment. He has four regular helpers for worship and a lunch club. There are six students who review worship. There is no preparation done for confirmation. There are six services of Holy Communion a year. The arrangement is if you receive Holy Communion in your church you may do so in school. A letter is sent to parents about this each year. Aquinas Trust intends to have a chaplaincy role in each of its schools.

The conversation broadened. It is tough to get involved with community schools especially at secondary level. Access can be gained through work with charities and music. Richard asked 'why be involved in schools?' Answers included being of educational, spiritual and pastoral support. Also to be an example of faith. It is very rewarding. A review of faith in public life by Dame Butler Sloss has deemed religious corporate worship to be in question but issues of faith to be valuable. R.E. should now include the teaching of Humanism. The discussion included the distinction between an assembly that was corporate and one that was confessional. Spinnaker offer training in engaging with schools. St. Paul's Crofton use a scheme called Open The Book.

Funeral Ministry - The Area Dean asked for parishes to each supply a list of Funeral Directors that they use. This is both to have a scheme of parishes being linked to F.D.s and inviting F.D.s to an event in the Autumn. The practice of F.D.s using their own celebrant is popular. Can we encourage F.D.s to ask not 'did they go to church?' but 'did they like a hymn or prayer?' to encourage families to consider church ministry? The document about good practice (see March minutes) asked churches to reply to F.D.s within twenty four hours, is this too long? The scheme Grave Talk was commended.

Booking the Bishop - If you would like a visit from the Bishop please contact the Area Dean who will pass your request on.

Vocations Course - Alison Newman said this is being run from 8 June for five weeks at Keston Church. Please advertise.

Date of Next Meeting - 12.00 p.m. on 14 July at the church of St. Andrew, Bromley