

Minutes of Chapter Meeting held at 12.00 p.m. on 14 July 2016 at St. Andrew Bromley

Present - Julie Bowen, Roger Bristow, Paul Farthing, David Herbert, Anne Jablonski, Andrew Jablonski, Alan Keeler, Angela King, Andrew McClellan, Richard Norman, Ruth Peet

Apologies - George Collett, Liz Davis, Lyn Hallam, Richard Handforth, Andy Hobbs, Napo John, Dave Johnston, Alan Mustoe, Steve Varney,

Other - Katrina Barnes, Iain Broomfield, Richard Finch, David Howath, June Hurn, Matt Lloyd, Carol Morisson, Alison Newman, Anne Townsend

Communications - Lindy Mackenzie is very interested to visit Deaneries and is happy to talk about a wide variety of issues such as magazines, Survey Monkey, social media. The Chapter were supportive of asking Lindy to a Chapter meeting.

Funeral Ministry - Alan circulated a list of Funeral Directors that had been supplied by the Chapter. A number of additional FDs were added. Alan explained that he had initially imagined FDs spread through the Deanery and linking FDs and parishes would be a good idea. In the end there are 33 FDs on the list; only 5 are located in the deanery. As an initial next step it was agreed that the parishes would be allocated 2 to 3 FDs to visit and explain the commitment that the Church of England has to funeral ministry. Alan will contact parishes with the FDs for them to visit.

People spoke about providing draft orders of service to help families plan a funeral. There were reports of difficulties with the music supplied at Kemnal Park particularly with regard to congregational singing. They also do not have a hymn book. (Alan will speak with Kemnal Park).

It was suggested that there be one contact for FDs for Bromley Deanery who would then ensure a minister was found. This was felt a large amount of administration and left for further thought.

Congregations are encouraged to tell their next of kin their desires for their funeral arrangements.

If FDs ask 'were the deceased religious?' and the answer is 'no' the church will not be approached. If the question is 'would you like a hymn or a prayer?' Church ministry is more likely to be considered.

Alan will write to FDs several times year to provide a background connection.

Can we involve FDs more widely in ministry that we have such as inviting them to All Souls services?

Vagrants - Ruth Peet shared a story of a vagrant she saw and asked what resources are available for the homeless. Bromley Council have a homeless helpline and statutory duties, see link below. St. Peter and St. Paul often have vagrants on their premises. Other agencies include JusB, Latch, Bromley Winter Night Shelter. Churches Together in Central Bromley have a food bank and offer Starter Packs of equipment for people having unfurnished accommodation. Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley run a food bank and a charity shop. Sue Rider in Burnt Ash Lane are running a duvet deal. One oft repeated word of advice is not to give cash.

Diocesan Finances - This issue has gone viral on the internet. There was criticisms about defect budgets and asking parishes to make offers is risky. Parishes will choose to give less. The basic requirement is £60k per parish to cover a stipend, clergy training and wider administration. It was felt that the practice of the Diocesan Synod being offered a take it or leave it approach to the budget was not good..

Mental Health - Ruth Peet has done some research. There is no training offered by the Diocese. The Church of England website has a half day awareness course for £800; a possibility if run for a number of churches. Neil Bunker past curate of St. Andrews and Ruth Bierbaum may be of help.

http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/200117/homelessness_and_prevention/281/homelessness

Date of Next Meeting - 12.00 p.m. on 19 September at the church of Christ Church, Chislehurst