

Minutes of Chapter Meeting **held at 12.00 p.m. on 18 July 2017 at the Rectory of St. Nicholas Chislehurst**

Present – Katrina Barnes, Tim Boniface, Roger Bristow, George Collett, Liz Davis, Anne Jablonski, Napo John, Dave Johnston, Alan Keeler, Angela King, Beth Lewis, Andrew McClellan, Alan Mustoe, Richard Norman, Steve Varney

Apologies – Julie Bowen, Iain Broomfield, Paul Farthing, Lyn Hallam, June Hurn, Ruth Peet, Anne Townsend

Other – Richard Finch, Richard Handforth, David Herbert, Dave Howath, Andrew Jablonski, Matt Lloyd

Chapter – We agreed that Chapter meetings would be 12.00 p.m. for 12.15 p.m. and to finish by 1.30 p.m. It was suggested that next Summer we have a Chapter outing to the Bromley CAMRA Beer Festival and that St. Andrew's would have a cider festival.

Bromley Debt Centre – This has had an official opening and is functioning with a small number of clients. There is a focus on funding with an annual cost of £18,000. It helps to support a local debt centre as opposed to the national one as no money comes back to the local. Martin Pointing is a good speaker but get your invitations in early. Some churches in Chislehurst have their own debt centre.

Training - Here I am? An exploration of vocation to be run at St. Mark's 8.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. 2, 9, 16, 30 Oct & 6 Nov. Andrew McClellan to provide publicity. Register with Steve Varney. Jane Winter has much to share about training. Alan Keeler to arrange a meeting for the Chapter with lunch. Anne Jablonski is running a full day on 30 Sept on puppets with One Way UK, also The Diocesan Healing and Wholeness course on 4 & 25 Nov.

Home for Good - The Diocese is promoting fostering and adoption. Billy Jo O'Leary will be speaking at the Sep Chapter.

Statistics for Mission – We spoke about the difficulties of supplying some of the figures requested such as age profiles, reasons people join and leave churches, situation of employment. The Area Dean felt challenged at having to give such figure a 'reality check'. There was a discussion about the possibilities and difficulties in using questionnaires and Survey Monkey. The Area Dean spoke about the new Diocesan Database and there were questions about its purpose. Parish Spotlight is a useful resource.

A Church Near You – This is used by some parishes as their only website. Please log on to ensure your information is passed over to the new improved ACNY. The chapter were reminded about the online diocesan directory. There will now no longer be the option of a paper directory.

Spirituality – People spoke about a wide range of places for retreats, St. Benedict, Malling Abbey, St. Cuthmans, Los Olivios (Spain!), Burrswood also for conferences, Penhurst, Ashburnham, Suzanne Carlsson's house, Bromley College, Walsingham. The Emmaus Centre will close at the end of the year. We also thought about retreats for laity, retreat in daily life, school class rooms that have prayer corners, school collective worship as often too busy. One parish has 24 hours Friday evening to Saturday. Often two nights is a great benefit.

Clergy dress – The collar and vestments are valued. Clergy can be spotted even in mufti! One member spoke of his father being identified visiting church because he 'looked like he owned the place'!

Funerals – There remain a small number of funerals. Beth Lewis would like training experience please ask her for cover. The occasional offices do lead to church growth. Do work out the follow up and support you do. Richard Norman has resources following a conference.

School Support – With cuts in education can skills such as nurse or speech and language be offered? Christ Church Beckenham and Orpington Baptist have parish nurses.

Date of Next Meeting - 12.00 p.m. on Wednesday 27 September at St. Luke Bromley Common. Please park at the old vicarage, 20 Bromley Common or at Norman Park.

Supporting CAP Bromley

Making a difference in people's lives

Who we are:

The Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Bromley Partnership represents five Bromley churches who have chosen to work together to set up the Bromley CAP Debt Centre. The aim of which is to enable individuals who find themselves in financial difficulties to be set free from debt and to have the opportunity to explore a life transforming faith in Jesus Christ.

What we have achieved:

We have appointed a debt centre manager and, following a very successful formal launch at Costa in Bromley, are starting to meet our first clients.

What we need:

We have the finance in place to support the debt centre until the end of the year. This has been provided by the five Churches who have set up the Partnership, however we now need to urgently find the funds to ensure it's longer term sustainability.

We are also looking for volunteers from across the borough who can work with our debt centre manager and provide the link to a local church.

How you can help:

If you are interested in the work of CAP, wish to make a difference in your community and would like to partner with us, would you consider being:

- one of our supporting churches who could commit to providing between £25 and £50 a month, or
- an individual willing to personally contribute between £5 and £20 a month, or
- a volunteer and working with our Centre Manager to support clients becoming debt free and link them to your church.

Next Steps:

If you are interested in partnering with us in one of these ways please contact Martin Pointing on martinpointing@capuk.org