

Minutes of Chapter Meeting
held at 12.00 p.m. on 27 September 2017 at St. Luke's, Bromley Common

Present – Roger Bristow, Liz Davis, Lyn Hallam, Andrew Jablonski, Napo John, Dave Johnston, Alan Keeler, Angela King, Andrew McClellan

Apologies – Katrina Barnes, Julie Bowen, George Collett, Paul Farthing, David Herbert, Anne Jablonski, Beth Lewis, Alan Mustoe, Richard Norman, Ruth Peet, Steve Varney

Other – Tim Boniface, Iain Broomfield, Richard Finch, Richard Handforth, David Howath, June Hurn, Matt Lloyd, Anne Townsend

home for good – We welcomed Billy-Jo O'Leary and James Copeland from the charity 'home for good'. Billy-Jo told us about many things. The Bishop has spoken about the importance of fostering and adoption and it will be part of the Diocesan Strategy that is soon to be launched. The church is ideally placed not least as salvation is described in Romans and Ephesians as being adopted into God's family. In the Diocese there are 9,000 foster families needed and 200 children need adoption. This is not an easy task. The BBC news this week spoke about one in four adoption families in crisis. 3 – 9 % of adoptions break down. Support such as providing meals, date nights and respite all help. One family per church offering to adopt would solve the crisis.

Billy-Jo is visiting all deaneries and there will be an open meeting for the Bromley Deanery at 7.30 p.m. on the 14 November at Christ Church Chislehurst. Please advertise and you are welcome to go wider than your church or the Church of England. This will be an opportunity to meet adopters. Gary Best the curate at St. John Bexley is an adoptive parent. Particular demanding situations are teenagers and sibling groups. Resources are available with a website <https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/> and Billy-Jo will meet people for coffee.

There are other agencies who work with adoption such as local authorities, private agencies some of which work for profit. home for good work with Diagrama. Adoption families can find it hard to get support. Home for good work in Kent and Medway and have 255 children in Bromley and 245 in Bexley. There are handouts available for the clergy and the community to help promote the work. Adopters must be capable, over twenty one and there is no upper limit. The current work is a one year pilot.

Data Storage – Andrew McClellan introduced what he admitted was often perceived as a peripheral issue. However churches do need to pay attention to the information they hold. Material such as contact information, committee membership, financial information are all potentially sensitive. He is looking for regulation but in a light way. St. John's is looking to get clear patterns of work by next May. Andrew would welcome policies from other churches. These will help him and he is happy to share his findings. Andrew Jablonski spoke about his experience about finding a Conflicts of Interest Policy, it was hard. Alan Keeler spoke about St. Mary's working on a confidentiality policy which is a stage further in data issues.

Training – Sadly Steve Varney's plans to run a Here I am? course have had to be cancelled because of very few applicants. Someone did ask if it followed on too closely from other similar training.

Help! – Keston Mosque is planning to run a Mums and Tots group. Please can you get in touch with Angela King if you can offer some Guidance.

Date of Next Meeting - 12.00 p.m. on Thursday 23 November at the vicarage of St. Augustine, Bromley Common