



**Minutes of the Deanery Synod Meeting
held at St Dunstan's East Acton with online access via YouTube
on Wednesday 8 February 2023 doors opened 7pm for meeting 7.30pm**

Attendance: In-person 21 + 4 guests; online 19

Welcome and Worship.

Rev. Jon Westall, vicar, welcomed the meeting to St Dunstan's East Acton and gave us a little history of the church and parish. He outlined the current mission activities at St Dunstan's:

- Kidzone – a Monday after school service for primary age children and parents (no church schools nearby)
- Pain Exchange – offering help for long term sufferers of chronic pain.
- Asylum Seeker Drop-in

The meeting started with an act of compline / night prayer, and we sang The Lord's my Shepherd.

Business Items

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard

Sara Black from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team gave a presentation on the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and how to use it. Essentially, it is a system by which all the administration and actions required for parish safeguarding are collected together in one place (with relevant deadlines) so that it can be easily reviewed. Exactly how each parish organizes its access and who can edit or view will depend on the individuals in each parish. There should be an ongoing review of safeguarding [as opposed to an audit once a year] particularly as legislation can change.

More information about the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard can be found on this link <https://safeguarding.london.anglican.org/parish-resources/safeguarding-checklist-2/> and Sara Black can be contacted on sara.black@london.anglican.org. Please contact Sara if you have any questions and if your Safeguarding Officer needs to request a link to access your parish safeguarding dashboard. Please also contact Sara if your parish does not currently have a db's evidence checker as she may be able to help.

School Governor for Ealing Fields

There were no nominations for this vacancy and so the election was deferred to the synod meeting on Wednesday 12 July 2023.

Focus on School Governors

Penny Roberts, Director of Education at the London Diocesan Board of Schools (LDBS) spoke about the purpose and vision and also the challenges of the LDBS and also about church schools.

In Ealing there are four secondary church schools in the Twyford Trust [Twyford, Ada Lovelace, William Perkins and Ealing Fields] and three primary church schools Edward Betham [in

Greenford], St Mary's Norwood Green and Christ the Saviour. Church schools are as diverse and inclusive as other London schools and are popular.

Church schools face a number of challenges

- Sustainability in terms of
 - Energy costs
 - Falling pupil rolls – numbers are falling in primary schools
 - Pay rises
- Governors and trustees who are instrumental in supporting schools
 - Employers of teachers
 - Policies of schools
 - Preserve and promote Christian character of schools
 - If vacancies can't be filled, schools will have to look elsewhere

The role of school governors in church schools has never been more important!

Most school governing bodies meet six times a year and governors are often also co-opted onto a committee or have a specific role. Commitment and willingness to serve are important. A balance of experience over the governing body as a whole is important so the membership of a governing body can depend on who else is available.

Emma Harniman, Chair of Governors of Ada Lovelace, spoke about her experience as a governor. She emphasized that a governor is a critical friend. Governors are interested in the education of children and are in the community and engage with the community. There is a mix of people both in terms of availability of time and in interests.

Emma also spoke on behalf of Val Drake, Head Clerk to the Twyford CofE Academies Trust, as Val was unable to be present at the meeting. The Twyford CofE Academies Trust has different types of governors representing different parts of the community: parents; staff; non-teaching staff; appointed by directors; appointed by Area Dean; appointed by the LDBS; co-opted; and appointed by Ealing Deanery. Each Local Governing Body meets four times a year and normal practice is for a governor to be on or two subcommittees – each subcommittee also meeting four times a year.

Meetings are on Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays or Thursdays starting at 6pm. There is a dedicated clerking team who assist with minutes, legislation and governance.

Notices and Next meeting(s)

- 30 April 2023 Deadline for submitting applications for the Ealing Mission Fund
- Saturday 20 May 2023 Save the Date for Intercultural worship service.
- Wednesday 14 June 2023 Archdeacon's Visitation 2023, St Matthew's Ealing Common for swearing in of churchwardens and presentation of common fund.
- Wednesday 12 July 2023 inc. AGM and Mission Bids, St George's Southall
- Thursday 19 October 2023 - Diocesan Vision Road Show with Bishop Lusa,

This is the last meeting of the triennium (three-year term) for this Deanery Synod and so some Deanery Synod members will be standing down. The Area Dean expressed his thanks to everyone who has attended meetings of the Deanery Synod in the past three years.

Prayer and Finish

The meeting closed with the conclusion of Compline at 8.45pm.