



**Minutes of the Deanery Synod Meeting  
held at Emmanuel Church Southall**

**on Thursday 30 January 2025 doors opened 7pm for meeting 7.30pm**

Address of Emmanuel Southall: Fleming Road, Golf Links Estate, Southall, London UB1 3LP

**Attendance:** Angela Colman, Pauline McCalla, 28 Synod members + 4 guests

**Welcome and Worship**

Father Wilson Gill, vicar of Emmanuel Church Southall, welcomed the Deanery Synod to Emmanuel Southall. The church celebrated 50 years on the Golf Links Estate in 2024 and has been a full parish since 2006. In addition to the Sunday morning services in English, an afternoon congregation meets to worship in their mother tongues of Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi. God is good and his faithfulness has been good. There was a time of sung worship, liturgy and intercessions.

**Business Items and Notices**

***Diocesan Synod***

*Already elected*

- Clergy: Richard Collins Christ the Saviour, Alex Volossevich St Mary's Ealing
- Laity Antje Whitehurst St Mary's Ealing, Dr Neil Yates St Dunstan's East Acton

*By elections – Nomination form received*

- Clergy: Joseph Fernandes St Mary's Acton was duly declared elected to the Diocesan Synod
- Laity: none

Nominations were also invited from the floor, but none were made. There are therefore still three clergy vacancies and four lay vacancies from Ealing Deanery to the London Diocesan Synod. It would be good to have more people to fill the vacancies and elections can be arranged after nominations are made.

***School Governor Elections***

There are still vacancies for Deanery elected school governors at:

- Edward Betham Primary School
- William Perkin Secondary School

***Mission Bids***

The Ealing Mission Fund has money to give to parishes who need a little financial help with a mission project in their parish. Grants of up to £2k are available and the application form is found on the Ealing Deanery website <https://ealingdeanery.org/mission-fund/> The closing date for applications is Wednesday 30 April. (The possibility of the maximum grant being increased to £3k is being investigated but has not yet been approved.)

***Mothers Union***

Pauline McCalla, President of the Mothers' Union for the Diocese of London, gave a presentation about the Mothers' Union, the "best kept secret in the Church of England". The Mothers' Union

was founded in 1876 and so will be celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. While the organisation is led by women, men are also involved.

The Mothers' Union joins with local people to offer practical support. Initiatives in London include Away from it all (AFIA), Prisons, Refuges, Hospitals, Foodbanks and raising awareness of Gender-based violence. Synod members were encouraged to join and to spread the word, particularly to younger people, that the Mothers' Union is still relevant (not just tea parties and knitting).

### **Safeguarding**

Angela Colman, Willesden Area Safeguarding Adviser, gave a presentation about safeguarding, particularly focusing on the Safeguarding Standards.

She started her talk by pointing out how knowledge causes people to change their behaviour and gave the example of the stop smoking campaign. Issues about safeguarding arises every day but only some get picked up (though these do seem to include stories involving churches).

Safeguarding is about standards, not rules, because standards allow us to focus on the outcome but allow variation. (AC also observed that churches who are thriving financially will talk about money – and so churches who want to be safe should be happy to talk about safeguarding.)

The five safeguarding standards (which provide a good basis for a self-audit) are:

- Culture, Leadership and Capacity
- Prevention
- Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk
- Victims and Survivors
- Learning, Supervision and Support

There are a lot of resources to help parishes:

- Promoting a safer church – posters with space to include contact details
- 5 standards – booklet, posters
- Sexting – fact sheet
- Safer spaces – posters with tear off strips
- Working alone guidance
- Who needs what training guidance

The safeguarding standards provide a very helpful framework to map our direction of travel as parishes and as a Diocese. External audit is healthy and valuable so there will be an independent audit based around the framework of the safeguarding standards between 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025 with a '360° audit' (parish questionnaire) to be completed in May / June 2025.

Parishes were encouraged to put together an action plan

- Ensure websites are up to date
- An action plan can be generated from an annual self-audit or your safeguarding dashboard
- Safeguarding training and db checks – also to include PCC members as trustees
- Consider your culture / communications including visual (when people walk into the church what makes it look safe)
- Joint working between churches
- External groups who use the church

If you have any questions, please contact Angela at [angela.colman@london.anglican.org](mailto:angela.colman@london.anglican.org)

The meeting closed with prayer at 9.03pm.