

THE WINCHESTER DEANERY

Spring Synod – Thursday 14 April 2016

St Barnabas, Weeke

This was the first of our new style of Synod - an open meeting where Synod Members can extend an invitation to others in their parishes/benefices who may have specific interest in the subjects on the agenda. This style of meeting will now become our standing approach here in the Winchester Deanery.

Naturally in tandem with that we need to preserve the more formal aspects of Synod in terms of members voting on important items and formally communicating back to their PCCs. However it is also important that deanery synods reinvent themselves to fit the times and focus on equipping their members and the churches they represent.

Synod Business

- 1 Minutes of November 2016 Synod were approved
- 2 Finance Committee Report – Issued in advance of the meeting and there were no questions. John Spens (Chair of Finance Committee) introduced each member who represents each benefice/parish across the Deanery

General Synod Update - Alison Coulter

General Synod Member, Lay Chair of Diocesan Synod and Winchester Deanery Synod Member Alison shared her experiences of her first two General Synods and that how the most surprising thing was feeling part of a family and making new friends and contacts. Alison recommends taking a look at:

Talking Jesus by The Barna Group as fascinating reading: Click [here](#)

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Task Group for Evangelism: Click [here](#)

Growing our Church – introduced by Deanery Lay Chair, Ruth Guy

Ruth introduced the next section of the meeting by talking about how she sees the laity as special agents – plain clothed Officers in the Church. By making friends with people who don't go to church it is building an amazing bridge upon which Jesus Christ can walk into their lives. Ruth and the three speakers then gave brief talks about courses and programmes they had experience of running in their own church settings. This was followed by informal break-out sessions where further questions could be put to the speakers in small groups.

More information on each of the four programmes discussed can be found overleaf.

Next Synod Meetings

14 July 2016 from 6.30pm – Bring & Share Supper, Fellowship & Meeting at The Hospital of St Cross

17 November 2016 7pm for 7.30pm – Deanery Synod at St Mary's Kingsworthy

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Growing our Church Spring Synod at St Barnabas, Weeke



everybody welcome Ed Dines, *Vicar at St Barnabas*

Ed shared his experience of this course and how it can transform a church by improving our approach to newcomers. The course encourages and challenges every member of the church to look anew at what it means to be a welcoming, embracing community and offers guidance for your entire congregation and helps every individual play their part.

More information: <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/everybody-welcome-products>

Growing Leaders John Spens *Licensed Lay Minister*

This is a great tool for equipping people for outreach and growth over 10 sessions with additional mentor time – which is a key part of the course. There is excellent material for both the course leaders and students. John spoke about their experience of running it in the Winchester Deanery in 2014 with two lay and two ordained tutors, and many of the 32 delegates are now using their new skills in exciting ways with some heading for Ordination.



More information: <https://www.cpas.org.uk/church-resources/growing-leaders-suite#.V0QiQZErLIU>

Leading Your Church into Growth Phil Dykes *School of Mission*

Phil spoke about this programme which has been serving the local church across the country for almost 25 years. Its vision is to encourage and equip people to grow in numbers, in spirituality and in mission commitment to the local community and the wider world. The East Winchester Benefice and St Faith with St Cross are currently running the programme and shared their experience.



More information: <http://www.leadingyourchurchintogrowth.org.uk/>

KNOWING GOD Ruth Guy *Upper Dever Benefice*

"It's not proof of God's existence we want, but the experience of God's presence". Ruth talked about the course run by a team in the Upper Dever Benefice which is based on a prayer written by St Benedict and how it looked at practical ways of deepening our relationship with God. Email Ruth for more information: rjcg@btinternet.com

