

HILLINGDON DEANERY SYNOD REPORT: 2023-2024

Following the APCM held April 2023 our church was represented on Hillingdon Deanery Synod by **Ruth Bitok, Sarah Jacob, Judith Roberts, Melissa Bach, Gill Dargue, Zoe Lambourne, Deborah Nicholls**

The **Revd. Peter Mackenzie** continued as the Area Dean and **Revd. Andrew Studdert-Kennedy** Assistant Area Dean. The Deanery Synod normally meets three times per year. The meetings include **talks/presentations** on specific topics of wide interest; one meeting is designated for Synod business which includes reports from the Area Dean (noting any new appointments or departures), from the Deanery Treasurer, Willesden Area Council, London Diocesan Synod and General Synod; there may also be reports from Deanery Synod members who serve on the governing bodies of the Church schools within the Deanery. (Visitors are welcome to attend every Deanery Synod meeting but have no voting rights.)

Report on the proceedings of Hillingdon Deanery Synod: 2023-2024

Thurs. 9th February 2023: St Andrew's, Uxbridge

Topic: praying the Psalm.

This meeting was cancelled just 24 hours beforehand, as the speaker, the theologian and author Dr Paula Gooder, Canon Chancellor at St Paula, was unfortunately ill. The meeting was later re-schedule for November 2023

Tuesday 27 June, St Anselm, Hayes 7.30

The speaker was **Dr Krish Kandiah OBE and Pattie Gercke** from [The Compassionate Communities Team](#) of the Diocese of London

The Topics included: What is happening in Hillingdon? – news from a few of the parishes, chaplaincies, schools, foodbanks etc and the topic of welcoming the strangers. It included a couple of organisations presenting ways in which they can support our ministry to care for those who arrive in this country.

Wednesday 15th November 2023, St Andrew's Uxbridge

Topic: Praying through the Psalms 23 - a meeting previously cancelled and re-scheduled

Speaker: [Dr Paula Gooder](#), Canon Chancellor at St Pauls.

Report on the proceedings of Hillingdon Deanery Synod: 2024-2025

Deanery Synod Members representing St Martins: **Ruth Bitok, Deborah Nicholes, Gill Dargue, Mervyn Hogg, Miranda Reading and Zoe Lambourne**

28 February 2024 – 7.30 Bishop Ramsey

Topic: growing Younger.

Rev Peter Mackenzie opened the meeting with prayer. He explained that many churches have seen fewer young people attending, especially since Covid. The Diocese has initiated as part of the 2030 Vision a Growing Younger priority. He reminded us that passing on our faith to the next generation is one of the most important things we have to do.

Sam Donoghue, Head of Children's and Youth Ministry at the Diocese of London and Emma Biddle, Programme Manager of Growing Younger, presented the help and support available to parishes with their Youth Work from the Diocese, specifically via the Mighty Leaders web resource,

<https://mightyleaders.mn.co/>. Each parish context is different, so a variety of help is available in this one place, including recruitment support, bespoke training, clergy training and forums to facilitate discussions. Topics covered included storytelling, behaviour management and planning a game.

There is an Apprentice Programme, where time is spent working in parishes and studying for a Certificate in Higher Education at Ridley Hall. Deanery Synod members were encouraged to discuss these opportunities with PCCs and to pray about who would benefit.

Three local speakers spoke on the youth initiatives in their own parishes, the Uxbridge team, St Paul's Ruislip Manor, and our own Sarah Chapman who spoke positively and most enthusiastically about the group of 15 to 20 young people who are meeting once a term at St Martin's for worship, discussion and social. She stressed the importance of keeping it focussed on the Eucharist.

26th June at 7:30pm at St Andrew's Church, Uxbridge

Topic: Jesus said "Make disciples" the speaker was Mirjam Ngoy-Verhage, the London Diocese Discipleship Enabler. The meeting was open to all not just deanery synod members and questions were, I wonder what helped you become, or grow as, a disciple of Jesus? What do you in your church that helps people to grow as disciples of Jesus? All were welcome to share briefly if anyone had something to share.

You can find other useful Synod papers and information on synod website here: <https://hillingdondeanery.wordpress.com/>

16 October 2024 – 7.30 St Edmund Canterbury, Yeading

Topic: Deanery Mission Plan - Mission in the Deanery as well as South Hillingdon

Led jointly by Christopher Ramsay – the Willesden Area Director of Mission and Richard Young, our recently appointed Mission Enabler for South Hillingdon

The announcements included the election of 2 members: Monica Bolley and Mervyn Hogg elected to Diocesan Synod, the sad news of sudden passing of Shanti Jayasekera – Lay Minister of St Pauls Ruislip Manor – funeral 18/10/24 and the nominations for deanery synod governor - Dr Triplets CE school

1) The discussion centred around Jeremiah 29;1,4-7, 10-14.
Looking at hope and future for Hillingdon.

What does God say to us from his word about offering us a hope and a future, particularly in times of challenge?

What can we learn from the current context of our parishes and communities, including recent census date?

What are our hopes for the CofE in Hillingdon over the next generation?
What could we do to get there, working together?

2) Presentation on the London Project for every Londoner to experience the Love of Christ by 2030.

3) Hillingdon (south of A40 orientated) mission working with 14 parishes - project led by Rev Richard Young - lots of statistics for each parish showing census estimate of % Christian typically around 50% north A40 and 40% South of A40.

- Sunday attendance still hasn't recovered post Covid pandemic.
- Numbers of children, young people and families down in most churches.
- Looking at growing new groups seems to be at core of project to address different cultures in our mixed society.

Wednesday 12 February 2025, st Lawrence Church Eastcote 7.30 pm

The meeting started with refreshments and the opportunity to review resources and to meet people from other churches. We were encouraged to ask, what is one thing I could pray for your church? We were welcomed by Reverend Dr John Seymour from St Lawrence's Church.
This was followed by the formal Synod Business Agenda.

The appointment of Jacqueline Alderton as lay member of Willesden Area Finance Group was ratified.

The formal business was followed by a presentation from Pauline McCalla, London Area Mothers Union (MU) president. MU was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner and is based in prayer and worship. It will be celebrating its 150th anniversary next year. There are 4 million members across 84 countries, and it is particularly strong in African countries. The aims of the MU include to build resilience in individuals, families and communities. They demonstrate compassion in action, challenge prejudice and advocate for change. They continue to help communities change their lives for the better by working to combat poverty, injustice and violence worldwide, including in hard-to-reach communities.

MU have many events in different areas such as the Annual Festival Service at St Paul's Cathedral. They also hold monthly prayer hours and prayer support for the link Diocese. They have the Wave of Prayer, Lady Day services, emergency prayer network and branch meetings and services.

Information was given on how MU is managed within the UK and it was noted that Hillingdon and London come within the Canterbury region. MU initiatives within London include working in prisons, refuges, with families, with food banks and offering holidays for families who cannot afford them. MU also undertakes work on gender-based violence and promotes the use of domestic abuse posters in toilets with tear off slips with telephone numbers for people to seek support.

Membership of the MU is open to everybody irrespective of gender, male or female and to people whether they have children or not.

The current aim is to increase membership, and it was noted that there are no active branches in the Hillingdon Deanery but there are several in both Brent and Ealing. There is need for a new chaplain for mother's union in the Hillingdon Deanery.

Pauline was thanked for her presentation and shared leaflets about MU and its resources.

Possible actions from the meeting for St Martin's:

To consider: whether we should have posters in the toilets with contact details for domestic abuse and Consideration for volunteering to host deanery Synod in June.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 Willesden Area Roadshow **with Bishop Lusa**
7:30 – 9:00pm – St Mary's Harmondsworth

Tuesday 10th June 2025 Hillingdon Deanery Archdeacon's Visitation and Common Fund Presentation, St Martins Ruislip

Wednesday 25th June 2025 Deanery Synod, TBA

Wednesday 8th October 2025 Deanery Synod, St Nicholas Hayes

Deanery Evening Prayer on Sundays

Deanery evening prayer services are held in parishes in the South Hillingdon area on Sundays once a month. This is an opportunity for everybody within the Deanery to come together and pray for that church

2nd March 2025 St Andrew's Uxbridge

6th April 2025 All Saints North Hillingdon

11th May 2025 St Nicholas North Hayes

1st June 2025 St Edmund's Yeading

6th July 2025 St Anselm Hayes

7th Sept 2025 St Margaret's Uxbridge

5th Oct 2025 St Peter & St Paul Harlington