



NATIONAL DEANERIES CONFERENCE - 05 OCTOBER 2018

REPORT FROM DEANERIES' DEVELOPMENT ADVISER

1. The National Deaneries Conference, organised by the National Deaneries Network, focussed the residential meeting on the heading of *Living Deaneries: Engines for Discipleship, Social Justice and Evangelism*. The overview focussed on the following:

“We have before us an amazing opportunity to impact our nation for Christ!

- The question for us in our Deaneries is:
- How can we in the Deanery make the most of that opportunity?
- How can the Deanery be a Living agent for change and Social Justice?
- How can we, ordained and lay together, enable one another to live out the Good News of Jesus in all our life, not only in church-based ministry on a Sunday but in work and school, in gym and shop, in field and factory, Monday to Saturday?”

2. Eleven fully sponsored places for lay and clergy representatives across the Dioceses were offered and these attendees were:

Duncan Swan	Deaneries Development Adviser
Chris Elliott	Reigate Deanery
Caroline Clarke	Lambeth North Deanery
Catherine Tucker	Croydon North Deanery
Alison Huneke	Sutton Deanery
Indrani Balachandran	Croydon South Deanery
Bill Bishop	East Lewisham Deanery
Joseph Goswell	Croydon Central Deanery
Paul Parmenter	Croydon Central Deanery
Rev Simon Foster	Croydon Central Deanery
Jay Colwill	Director of Mission and Canon Missioner

3. Attendees were impressed by the quality of the input, not least by the episcopal leadership and reflection. The presentation on investment in data and digital communication was particularly interesting, as we try to lead in mission in a digital age.
4. The issues facing the Church were discussed realistically, which presented attendees with exciting challenges. There was a ‘permission-giving’ atmosphere which was very encouraging, and fed directly into *Setting God’s People Free*, and the Diocese’s own

Lay Leadership and Lay Ministry Report, in which the laity are enabled to lead and grow the Church.

5. Discussions with attendees from other dioceses emphasised how much Southwark had tried to advance and utilise deaneries as centres of mission and enable the laity within the deaneries to own, lead, enable and serve the church and communities they were in.
6. Feedback from the Conference will influence and structure the Diocese's future plans on Lay Leadership & Ministry, and Deanery Report implementation stages.
7. Full details of the conference, including videos of presentations and downloadable content can be found [here](#).
8. Thoughts on Deanery Conference from the Diocese's Deaneries Development Adviser, the Revd Canon Duncan Swan

"I really did not know what to expect, though I am an experienced Swanwick visitor. For myself I was impressed by the quality of the input, not least by the amount of Episcopal leadership and reflection. The presentation on investment in data and digital communication was welcome, and it was good to receive input from Church House. There was no pretence that the church has not got huge issues facing it. Rather it was realistic along with exciting."

9. The Conference is organised every two years and we will, of course, be planning on sponsoring places at the next meeting. Keep an eye out for communication on this next year!