



Runnymede Deanery

Diocese of Guildford

*Addlestone, Chertsey, Egham, Egham Hythe, Englefield Green,
Lyne and Longcross, New Haw, Ottershaw, Thorpe, Virginia Water
St Peter's Hospital, Royal Holloway University of London*

Area Dean: REVD BEN BEECROFT

Lay Chair: STEVE BAYNES

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2023 APCM Report on the Proceedings of Runnymede Deanery Synod from your House of Clergy & Laity Parish Representatives on the Synod (Conrad B, Keith M, Clem J, Paul K, Philomena E, Joyce J, James E, Will B, Esther P, Michael C, and Matt P)

Deanery Synods

Synod meetings in 2022 were held at St Paul Egham-Hythe (Spring), Christ Church Virginia Water (Summer) and St Paul Addlestone (Autumn), as usual presenting "Parish Focus" reports about the church life and community involvement of the hosting parish, with prayer requests/updates.

In Spring, Runnymede Deanery Climate Champion Clem Jones gave a Climate Challenge Update.

The June meeting was an outdoor synod in the Vicarage garden, with a well attended and appreciated bring & share social, followed by an enthusiastic presentation and lively discussion on "Lay People in the Church of England" facilitated by Sarah Slater (Mission Team, Diocese of Guildford).

October Synod saw the Ven. Paul Davies (Archdeacon of Surrey) speaking passionately to lay members on "How Clergy Thrive", including a useful group work session, while clergy gathered for a prayer meeting. Runnymede Deanery Eco Church Champion Ben Niblett presented "Eco Church 101".

All three meetings were open to the public and detailed Minutes are available via the Deanery Administrator runnymededeanery@gmail.com and on the deanery website.

Restructuring

The leading bodies of the deanery (Standing Committee and Growth & Strategy Group) have, as per Diocesan strategy, been incorporated into the new Deanery Leadership Team, which had its first meeting in April 2022. It consists of the Area Dean, Lay Chair and incumbents of the parishes (or their nominated core leadership delegates)/churchwardens in case of vacancy.

Kebbi Link

Following Kebbi bishop Edmund's stay in Runnymede for 12 weeks during 2021, Archbishop Henry Ndukuba of Nigeria invited Bishop Andrew of Guildford to speak at a plenary session of the Nigerian National Conference in November 2022, renewing the longstanding link with our diocese. Nigeria is the largest member of the Anglican Communion with over 20 million people. Details on the visit will hopefully be shared at the next synod meeting.

Finance

Runnymede Deanery accounts continue to be sound and Parish Contributions were confirmed to remain at the same level as in recent years (individual parish amounts are determined by three-year rolling average of Sunday attendance, combined with Relative Prosperity Index), plus an invitation for 30% additional as donations towards the Deanery Growth Fund.

A £500 Deanery Growth Fund grant was awarded to Egham Hythe in support of their work with local Magna Carta Secondary School.

Other Business

- 2022 was the last year of the current Lay Membership cycle with the next Triennial Lay Representatives Election coming up for APCMs in 2023.
- Former Lay Chair Keith Malcouronne stepped down after over 20 years of good work in his leading function. Steve Baynes of Egham Hythe was duly and unanimously elected as new Lay Chair, with Roy Gouriet of Englefield Green as deputy. Ben Beecroft, Vicar in Addlestone, remains Area Dean, with Rosie Hoad, Vicar in Egham Hythe, as deputy.
- Runnymede Deanery Synod voted in favour of a motion for Diocesan Synod: "For Church of England clergy to marry parishioners and couples with a valid link to their churches in a Church of England ceremony at their chosen, legally correct venues other than a Parish church/chapel/place of worship."