



# Experience Hope

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## 2024 Deanery Synod Annual Report (paper APCM-24-04)

### Deanery Synods

Synod meetings in 2023 were held at Holy Trinity Lyne & Longcross (Spring), Christ Church Ottershaw (Summer) and St John Egham (Autumn), as usual presenting "Parish Focus" reports about the church life and community involvement of the hosting parish, with prayer requests/updates.

In Spring, David Senior (Mission Enabler Guildford Diocese) spoke on "Preparing for the Parish Needs Process".

The June meeting had an outdoor section exploring the Churchyard managed to EcoChurch principles, followed by an enthusiastic presentation and lively discussion on "Families in the 2020s" facilitated by Emma Coy (Mission Enabler Guildford Diocese).

October Synod examined the challenge of "Deanery – What's the Point?" with topical group work under the guidance of the Area Dean and Lay Chair.

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

### Deanery Leadership Team

The new Deanery Leadership Team, inaugurated in April 2022 and consisting of the Area Dean, Lay Chair and incumbents of the parishes (or their nominated core leadership delegates)/churchwardens in case of vacancy, met twice in 2023 to discuss deanery structure and events, vacancy support and partnership opportunities, the Deanery Mission Plan and Deanery Growth Fund, networking and general deanery business.

### Kebbi Link

Bishop Andrew of Guildford was once again invited by Archbishop Henry of Nigeria to speak at a plenary session of the Nigerian National Conference in November 2023, upholding 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 be shared at the Synod meeting in March 2024.

### 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 £250 Deanery Growth Fund grant was awarded to Egham Hythe in support of their new Godly Play activity.

### Other Business

- 2023 saw the Triennial Lay Representatives Election at APCMs and the Deanery welcomed a number of first time and repeat new members alongside the majority of re-elected reps.
- Deanery Greenery Champions Ben Niblett (EcoChurch)/Clem Jones (Climate Challenge) and their representatives continued to facilitate an open network and provide updates at Synod meetings.
- Following October Synod discussions, networks on the topics of Youth Work, Outreach, Discipleship, Children's Work, School Outreach, Prayer, Leadership and Eco Church are being established, open to all (not only Synod members). Interested parties can contact the Deanery Administrator at [runnymededeanery@gmail.com](mailto:runnymededeanery@gmail.com).