

The Synod met three times in 2019

In March the Reverend Alison Newman welcomed Members to St Mark's Biggin Hill and revealed the history of 'The Moving Church'. In 1952 the Vicar of Biggin Hill, Rev Vivian Symons heard of a derelict bombed out church in Peckham and together with many volunteers dismantled that old church and transported it brick by brick to build the new church at Biggin Hill. In April members of the congregation planned to walk back to the old site in Peckham. The Synod meeting concentrated on Vocations with several speakers from the Deanery outlining the different types of vocations within the Church.

In June Father Stephen Niechcial welcomed Synod to St Francis Petts Wood and Caroline Clark gave a presentation on Modern Slavery. She showed five films with different aspects of modern slavery - an umbrella term for slavery, coercion, deception and force. Evidence of this can be seen every day in nail bars, car washes, farms, nannies and domestic labour. The Diocese have joined with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority to raise awareness of these practices and the Mother's Union have also joined this partnership. Caroline can be contacted at the Diocesan Office at caroline.clarke@rochester.anglican.org for anyone who is concerned about local evidence of modern slavery.

The Reverend Carol Morrison welcomed Synod to Keston Parish Church in November where the Area Dean, Reverend John Musson spoke about Messy Church and the ways that different churches encourage children, many using crafts, music and refreshments.

In February 2020 Synod was hosted by the Reverend Canon Bimbi Abayomi-Cole at St Paul's Crofton. The new Diocesan Secretary, Matthew Girt, was interviewed in a "Desert Island Discs" fashion by the Area Dean. This was the last meeting of the current Deanery Synod, elections would be held in each parish for new representatives.

Mary Tozer
together with Ken I'Anson and Steve McCann