



EPSOM DEANERY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024



Welcome to our Deanery newsletter!

As the parishes of the Epsom Deanery begin reflecting on Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan, *The Word Who is Life*, it seemed a good idea to have a Deanery newsletter where we can not only share information about what's going on, but also draw inspiration and hope from each other as we witness together, and begin working more collaboratively. In *The Word Who is Life*, the Bishop says:

I therefore take this opportunity to invite everyone in the Diocese, lay faithful and religious, deacons and priests – to join with me in forging our parishes into communities of saints, into strong, lively and welcoming schools of discipleship. May they be communities where the Lord is known and loved; where the liturgy is experienced as an encounter with the wonder of heaven; where daily prayer is a natural part of life; communities of healing, where all are welcomed, their dignity as children of God always recognised; where young people grow in deep love for the Gospel, for the sacramental life of the Church and for prayer; where all know the riches of the Faith and seek to share it with others. (para. 1.5)

The plan is to publish this newsletter termly, celebrating what's going on in our communities and finding ways of working and witnessing together so that everyone can be informed and involved as we move forward, bringing Bishop Richard's vision to life.

Fr Chris Bergin

*(If you can help with the editing of future newsletters, I'd love to hear from you!
Please contact me at chris.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk or 01372 272267.)*

The journey thus far...

On 25th September, the Deanery clergy met with Canon Kieron O'Brien (Episcopal Vicar for the Pastoral Plan) and Deacon Nick St John (Archdiocese of Birmingham, who has experience in change management) to begin to think through the aims of Bishop Richard's Plan and the principles that underlie it. This conversation continued at the Deanery meeting in October (and will continue) where the first steps were agreed. One of the most important first steps was to ensure that parishioners across the Deanery are involved, both to heed the Bishop's call that mission is for everyone and to begin to think how each person's gifts and talents can be used collaboratively for the good of everyone across what will be the new parish.

So on Tuesday 12th November, just over 40 people from Core Groups / Pastoral Councils etc across the Deanery, and some reps from schools, met at St Andrew's School. After a time of prayer, Fr Ian McDole offered a reflection on what it means to be a 'parish' - rooted in Christ, using our gifts and talents, and encouraging each other in their use, for the goal of mission. After tea and coffee, there was an opportunity for reflection. This will feed into future discussions, but the same conversation can be had here and now, with each other: what does mission mean or look like in your life?

Next steps are to bring parish secretaries or administrators together, and also Chairs of Finance, to see how people doing similar work in different places can support each other and work more closely together. But fundamentally to keep the whole process, and our lives of faith, rooted in prayer.

You'll find the Diocesan Prayer and more information about the Plan on the website - see overleaf.

Getting to know the Clergy... *In each edition, we'll be profiling a couple of the local clergy.*



Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith was born in Rustington in 1963 and was baptised in St Wilfrid's in Angmering. After a few years later his family moved to Malta, but he came back to England for his schooling, at Ratcliffe College in Leicestershire. He read English Literature at Oxford, and studied Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome, where he gained a doctorate in Moral Theology. He is the author of numerous books and articles on a wide variety of subjects, both religious and secular. His most recent interest is organised crime and its treatment in literature. He has been at Saint Clement's in Ewell since July 2024. Before that he was in Hove, and from 2003-2007 he spent four years as missionary in Kenya.

Deacon Paul Fisher: I was born and brought up in Nottinghamshire, the eldest of three brothers in a Catholic family. On reaching the grand age of five I began my formal education in St Philip Neri's parish primary school. Shortly after receiving my first Holy Communion, I was invited by my Parish Priest to be an altar server. Successfully passing the 11+ examination I won a scholarship to the Becket School, which was run by the Augustinians of the Assumption.



After A-levels I read Chemistry at Royal Holloway University where I met my future wife at a Cath-Soc meeting. After graduating we married and settled in Cobham parish where we brought up our two sons and one daughter. I pursued a career developing pilot scale equipment aiming to develop mad-scientists' novel ideas into practical, useful industrial processes. Reflecting after a milestone birthday I felt a call to ministry and after a time of discernment entered formation for the diaconate and was ordained by Bishop Richard on the feast of St Peter and St Paul in 2023.

Advent Reconciliation Services

We'll be coming together in prayer this Advent, to celebrate the gift of God's forgiveness, healing, and peace in our Reconciliation Services. What a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas! We look forward to seeing you in:



Leatherhead: Tues 10 Dec, 6.30pm **Tadworth:** Wed 11 Dec, 7pm **Epsom:** Wed 11 Dec, 7.30pm
Effingham: Thur 12 Dec, 7.30pm **Dorking:** Sun 15th Dec, 3pm

Useful Links

Ashted: stmichaelashted.org.uk

Banstead: stannsbanstead.com

Cobham: sacredheartcobham.org.uk

Dorking: sjcc.org.uk

Effingham and Fetcham: effinghamandfetcham.org.uk

Epsom: stjosephsepsom.org.uk

Ewell: stclementsewell.org

Leatherhead: leatherheadcatholics.org.uk

Tadworth: stjohnstadworth.org.uk

The Diocese: abdiocese.org.uk

The Pastoral Plan: The Word Who is Life

For the latest news around the Diocese sign up to the weekly E-Bulletin [here](#):

