

AREA DEANS' NOTES NOVEMBER 2018

COMINGS AND GOINGS ETC

We welcome Rev David Whale as Rector of the Little Chalfont, Chenies, Latimer and Flaunden benefice. He is to be instituted on the evening of Advent Sunday. We say farewell to Bishop John Went, whose last service is Christmas Day and retiring from that benefice in the new year. We wish him well for the future.

We welcome Rev'd Michael Johnson as the new minister at St Thomas Holtspur, in Beaconsfield.

We will be welcoming Revs Ian Jennings and Nnamdi Raphael Maduka who are both taking up a position as Assistant Curate (with the title of Associate Minister) at St Mary's Denham from 22nd January 2019.

Please remember Rev Jeremy Brooks, Team Rector of Beaconsfield, in your prayers. He has broken his femur, but is recovering well.

It is sadness we announce the death of Rev'd Bill Mason, formerly of Penn Street and Holmer Green, who died on Saturday 24th November after a long illness.

COURSES

Safeguarding Course C2S1 arranged by the Deanery for: Churchwardens, Sunday School Leaders, Youth Workers, Safeguarding Officers, Organists .. people with parish responsibilities. These dates are Monday 4th March 2019 at St. Mary's Church, Amersham and 3rd June 2019 at St. Giles, Reading Rooms, Chalfont St. Giles. Both courses 6.30-9.30pm. Training is led by the Diocese. You can book online <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/c2s1-safeguarding-training-with-safer-recruitment-leadership-tickets-52878692593>.

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Has now kicked off, its first meeting earlier this month. Report is on the website.

NEW SIAMS REGULATIONS

From Sept this year the inspection criteria of church schools have been revised. Clergy with church schools and our foundation governors are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with the new set (available from the Diocese) ASAP. The Diocesan Director of Education writes:

A new SIAMS schedule has been in place since **1 September** incorporating several significant changes, a main one being to move from 4 questions to one overarching question:

'How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?'

In support of this new overarching question, there are now seven strands; many of which focus on the CEEO Vision for Education.

- Vision and Leadership
- Wisdom Knowledge and Skills
- Character Education; Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- Community and Living Well Together
- Dignity and Respect
- The Impact of Collective Worship
- The Effectiveness of RE

We have five schools this term which will be amongst the very first nationally to be inspected under this new schedule and we are supporting them as needed. The move to 'Christian **Vision**' as opposed to Christian **Values** will prove to be pivotal and may be genuinely challenging for some schools in that it requires a deep, integral understanding of what it means to be a Church School and how Christian faith can and should be expressed in a school in modern Britain today. We have been delivering a training course on this very subject for the last three years to support schools in their understanding and practice of this.

Tim Harper, Martin Williams, Cassa Messervy

Area Deans Amersham Nov 2018