

**WEYBRIDGE
DEANERY MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2016**

My Parish In The Future -
Preparing For Mission

WELCOME - & THANKS!

Egham

Thames Ditton

Molesey

Chertsey
Addlestone

Walton-on-Thames

Hersham

Sunningdale

Weybridge

Esher

Cobham

OPENING PRAYER (LK 5.1-11)



BISHOP RICHARD'S PASTORAL MESSAGE

- ◉ A conversation about our future organisation that has been going on for more than 2 years
- ◉ *'A conversation about the Church's mission ...'*
- ◉ Acknowledging that *'the priests of the diocese are not getting any younger ...'*
- ◉ A conversation for all of us to take part in
- ◉ A **confidence** rooted in our baptismal calling (Jer 1.5), in ambition for God's gifts (1 Cor 12.31) and in trust in Christ's promise (Lk 4.21)

‘PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP’

- ⦿ This Sunday’s Gospel (Lk 5.1-11)
- ⦿ Pope John Paul II’s challenge to us at the Millennium: *Duc in altum ...*
- ⦿ Plan for a different future, first by contemplating the face of Christ, seeking holiness, education in prayer and living as witnesses to love, in solidarity, dialogue and mission (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 2001)

POPE FRANCIS' CHALLENGE: THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

- ◉ Calling us to 'Missionary Transformation'
- ◉ To become a Church of Joyful Missionary Disciples, with pastors who 'smell of the sheep'; our structures 'on every level more inclusive and open'; 'dirty and hurting because it has been on the streets' ...
- ◉ Always speaking more of God's mercy than of God's judgement; a house with open doors
- ◉ The Door of Mercy becomes the Door of Mission ...

THE JOY OF THE PARISH ...

- ⦿ ***“The parish is not an outdated institution ... [potentially] in all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers ... A community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach ...”***

(Evangelii Gaudium, n.28)

OUR QUESTIONS TODAY

- ⦿ What **gifts** do we bring to the task ahead?
- ⦿ What **support** do we need for the task ahead?
- ⦿ How can we **support each other** in the changes ahead - and in embracing more fully our 'missionary calling', maximising our effect?
- ⦿ How can we go back home **energised** today, with a **sense of possibility**, not a sense of crisis or failure?

TO LIVE IS TO CHANGE

- ◉ The only thing that is unchanging in the world (and in our lives) is God's faithfulness and love ... and that 'unchangeability' is itself pure dynamism and flow
- ◉ Change is not an indicator of death but the sign of vitality
- ◉ Achieving the same end (sharing the Gospel) requires doing some things differently