

Meeting held on Thursday 30 November 2017 at Woolwich Centre

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and Lunch
2. Dates for 2018:
Jan 30; March 21; May 22; July 18; Sept 13; Nov 20
Please diary these dates and consider whether you could host a meeting.
3. Dates: Borough Commander's Carol Service at St Johns Blackheath. **Tuesday 12 December** at 7pm for 7.30pm

Prayer for schools (next meeting **Thursday 25 January 2018**, 11am at St Nicholas, Kidbrooke)

Greenwich Prays! Calling the churches of Greenwich together to pray for our city of London and Borough of Greenwich, focussing on Knife Crime and other serious issues

Thursday 15 March 2018 at Woolwich Central Baptist Church

4. Welcare

Welcare is a Christian organisation providing family and children's service across South London. They have a Greenwich Office on the Woolwich Common Estate. Until recently they received funding from Greenwich Council but that was recently withdrawn in the cuts. They are anxious to draw the attention of Church Leaders to their services and also to seek help from churches in raising funds. Further information: info@welcare.org 0207 820 7910 www.welcare .org
5. Presentation by Greenwich Parent Voice/ Southwark Diocese/Liveability. About embracing disability and particularly focussing on BAME families accessing services. A list of contacts will follow shortly.

Next meeting:

30 January - This meeting coincides with a Project Mosaic Conference on Modern Slavery and we may join these meetings together.

Thanks to Royal Greenwich Council for allowing us to use the Gallery and to Southwark Diocese and Greenwich Parent Voice for hosting.

Embracing Disability follow up briefing for Greenwich Church leaders.

Embracing Disability Service Saturday 3rd March, 2018 12.00-2.00 at Woolwich Poly School.

Church Leaders Network Meeting Presentation 28 Nov 2017 – Woolwich Centre

This meeting highlighted particular needs of children and young people with disabilities –and resources and support that is available for churches to improve their provision. Vivien Davies from Greenwich Parent Voice and Hugh Ridsdill-Smith from the Diocese of Southwark hosted the event. Presentations were given by Joan Lightfoot, Head of Integrated Children’s Services for RBG, Bola Obode, Social Worker for Disabled Children RBG; community groups and organisation working with these communities: Nskian Udofia, NEMFLA (Meeting the Needs of Ethnic Minority Families Living with Autism); Mat Ray, Church Partnership Lead at Livability; Barbara Wilson, Child and Family Support Services Manager at Welcare and Jo Tontoh of GPV who is parent to a young girl with cerebral palsy living in Thamesmead. An impassioned plea for action from faith leaders in promoting positive messages about disability was given in a letter written by Kenneth Maslin, Head teacher at Bishop John Robinson Primary School in Thamesmead to help schools ensure disabled children reach their full potential.

The next step: Embracing Disability Service, Saturday 3rd March, 12.00-2.00 2018, at Woolwich Polytechnic School. Hosted by the by Rt Rev Dr Karowei Dorgu, the Bishop of Woolwich.

The service will be engaging, multi sensory and short. We hope this will help bring many families of children with disabilities including those that are otherwise isolated and disengaged all together into supportive networks. We aim for it have a powerful message of love, acceptance and inclusion: it will celebrate the children, their stories and those of their families, and the value they bring to their communities. **Children and young people with special needs and disabilities and their parents and carers will participate in the service and contribute with images, artworks and poetry.** It will be followed by a celebratory lunch. There will be stalls with representatives of local organisations who offer support, advice and practical help. As part of this Greenwich Parent Voice will be making a professional film, and the message will be shared more widely online and on social media. Our hope is that this initiative will inspire other groups and be taken up in other geographical areas.

To get involved:

1. Identify families within your congregations who may be able to come to the service. These would typically be families where one of more of the children, up to 25 years old, has a disability or special need. This includes less visible disabilities such as autism and Aspergers.
2. Promote the service to these families, (they made need practical help with transport or booking in). We have fliers and posters that may be obtained by emailing us at the address below. Hugh will be at the next Greenwich Church Leaders meeting 30.1.18.
3. Contact us to see how your church can support this project and for any questions relating to becoming more accessible and welcoming to children and people with disabilities.

Contact:

Viv and Jo at Greenwich Parent Voice info@greenwichparentvoice.com

Hugh Ridsdill-Smith at Diocese of Southwark hugh.ridsdill-smith@southwark.anglican.org

Viv Davies

Hugh Ridsdill-Smith

<http://www.greenwichparentvoice.com/>

<http://southwark.anglican.org/cypmm/>

EMBRACING DISABILITY

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

A SERVICE FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

ALL WELCOME

MARCH 3RD AT 12NOON

FREE CELEBRATION LUNCH AT 1PM

WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC
HUTCHINS ROAD, THAMESMEAD, SE28 8AT

FREE
BOOKING
ESSENTIAL

HOSTED BY
THE RT REV'D
DR WOYIN
KAROWEI DORGU
BISHOP OF
WOOLWICH



BOOKING ESSENTIAL ONLINE VIA EVENTBRITE AT

[GPV-EMBRACING-DISABILITY-SERVICE.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gpv-embracing-disability-service)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT [INFO@GREENWICHPARENTVOICE.COM](mailto:info@greenwichparentvoice.com)



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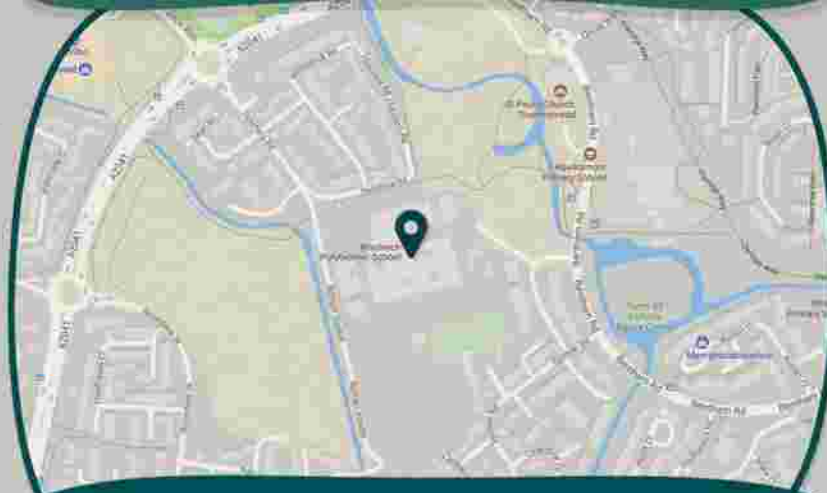


The Diocese of
Southwark

EMBRACING DISABILITY

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

VENUE IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.
LOW SENSORY/QUIET ROOM AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.



Map © Google Maps

PARKING AVAILABLE ON STREET

LIMITED BLUE BADGE PARKING AT THE SCHOOL MAY BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE,
ON FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS BY EMAILING INFO@GREENWICHPARENTVOICE.COM

BUFFET-STYLE CELEBRATION LUNCH FREE FOR PRE-BOOKED GUESTS.
PLEASE SPECIFY NUMBERS OF GUESTS WHEN BOOKING.



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