

**SYNOD TOGETHER 12 MARCH 2016
EAST CROYDON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

**SYNOD MINISTRIES COMMITTEE
REPORT TO SYNOD TOGETHER MARCH 2016**

DOEL appointment

Ministries Committee wishes to express thanks and appreciation to the Revd. Dr Richard Goldring for his ministry as Synod Director of Education and Learning.

Richard has reported regularly to MC and we have appreciated the thoroughness with which he has carried out his duties and his meticulous preparation of training events. A significant number of ministers in Southern Synod have commented on the exceptionally high degree of support they have received from Richard when preparing sabbatical projects. It is also true to say that feedback from the Spring Schools for Ministers has been highly positive.

As Richard's term of service draws to a close we wish him God's blessing in his future ministry.

MC spent considerable time working through the job description for a new DOEL; suggested amendments were made and the job description then passed to Synod Council for approval. We now hope and pray that a new DOEL will be in place by the time Synod Together meets again.

Deployment.

The new system of Scoping and Deployment, as agreed by Synod Together in October 2016 is now in operation. Synod Area/United Area Pastoral Committees now have the responsibility of developing deployment strategies at local level and it is to be hoped:

- (a) that the scoping of vacant pastorates may take far less time than under the previous system;
- (b) that alongside the scoping of individual pastorates, our Pastoral Committees may be enabled to look at long-term plans for the most effective deployment of Stipendiary Ministers.

LMMR

In our report to Synod Together in October 2015, it was said that we hoped to bring a full report on LMMR to this March Synod Together meeting. Steve Allott, (Synod LMMR Advocate) and Deidre Harrison (Administrator) have been working hard on reviewing the system whilst continuing to operate the LMMR programme. A report of some length will be brought to Ministries Committee Meeting in April and a full discussion is planned, both at Ministries Committee and at Synod Council. So it is now hoped that a presentation may be made at Synod Together in October.

*Jennifer Millington- Convener of Southern Synod Ministries Committee
March 2016*