

BLACKMORE VALE DEANERY PLAN - AIMS AND FOCUS FOR 2010/11

To proclaim the word of God in all our communities

- Through the encouragement and maintenance of regular services of worship in which the Word of God is proclaimed.
- By communicating more widely what is provided and to offer different services (traditional or contemporary) in which the Word of God could be proclaimed to other parts of our community..

To enable our existing members to develop greater confidence in their faith through teaching and shared study

- Through the development of shared study in relation to individual congregations
- Through the use of more informal settings for teaching, possibly a shared meal.
- Christianity needs to stand up for itself and we need to be prepared to proclaim it to our members and to the wider population including schools.

To offer effective pastoral care to the people of the Blackmore Vale

- Locally within each Benefice a system should be in place so that the Rector/LPA team is notified of anyone in need preferably via a named person/co-ordinator.
- Visiting new comers to the village with a 'Welcome leaflet' giving local details and the Church/village magazine.
- Looking after one another in the community.

To work collaboratively across the whole of the Deanery, sharing resources and ideas- and having fun!

- Possible first goal as without this nothing else would work effectively. Suggestions included holding joint social events, perhaps a shared supper, barn dance, open air theatres.
- Some events could be split between the North and South of the Deanery (such as already happens at the cheese festival/G&S show). Reports of all events should be in Parish magazines. When we do plan something together it needs to be done well.
- Deanery should be there to support the smaller parishes.

To develop the active participation of young people in all aspects of Church life

- Focussing on developing links with local schools. Perhaps setting up an after school club or a lunch club. Ideas for something along these lines had been suggested in the past but had not been achieved - youth worker needed (as previously discussed at Synod).

To help people discern vocations, develop all accredited ministries and to encourage lay worship leaders

- This might be developed best if clergy led, with training provided to encourage confidence so that an ethos is developed within parishes such that lay participation is expected and supported.

To provide support for all our ministers, stipendiary and non-stipendiary, ordained and lay.

- Through prayer.
- Through practical support.

To identify one stipendiary post to be a Post of First Responsibility

- A post has been identified initially in the Shaston team and will be advertised in the autumn of 2009.

To work towards achieving the above within the realities of stipendiary clergy levels

- The Deanery needs to be growing their own clergy, but we accept we have to work in the realities.
- Sharing of effective decisions within parishes/benefices to ease the pressure on clergy and increase the involvement of lay ministers.