

Introduction

Devizes Deanery is very fortunate in that it has only one town and that nearly all congregations regard Devizes as their natural centre for most things. (The major exception is probably Bratton which looks towards Westbury.) Devizes Deanery is, therefore, well named.

Stipendiary clergy positions and numbers are now about right, but non-stipendiary clergy are unevenly 'distributed'. No action is really possible, unless there is a greater acceptance of OLM's working in other parishes. The deanery is fortunate in having several retired clergy living within its parishes.

Apart from Synod meetings, which are generally well supported and regarded as worthwhile and of a high standard, there are few deanery organisations or activities. Even the three churches in Devizes town seem to work better individually, although there are some successful combined activities such as civic occasions.

A 'Team' at one time envisaged for Devizes town no longer seems practical.

There is a particular situation at present with St John's Church in Devizes which is out of action as a result of the fire. St Peter's is very 'Anglo-Catholic', and tends to act alone. It is particularly against the ordination of women bishops.

The Action Plan

The Action Plan is at a very early stage and is summarised overleaf. There are still many gaps and there is significant feedback required from parishes.

Resources required

The Plan aims primarily to develop the use of the deanery's existing resources.

At present the main areas in which resources are required are:

- training especially for lay members, and for clergy and lay in working together
- stewardship support
- technical and legal assistance

Themes	Objective	Action	Measure of success	Timing	Owner
1 Developing spirituality	Individual church members develop a deeper and richer relationship with God to become more mature Christians	Courses on prayer. Developing prayer partnerships. Retreats.	Attendance		Deanery spirituality representative Clergy The Baptized
2 Discerning God's will	Make parishes think 'mission' so that they bring more individuals to a knowledge of God To look outward	Growing Healthy Churches. Stewardship. Nature and timing of worship.	Achieve an attractive and engaging church community		PCC's
3 Serving the community	To develop deeper community involvement across the deanery	Local clubs/societies Schools. Involvement in social issues.	How the church is perceived in the community		PCC's
4 Building relationships	Aware of networks and using them Cross boundary – parishes and deaneries	Portfolio holders (for eg youth, schools, rural, civic, ministerial/vocational, hospitals, health & the elderly, lay training & education, resourcing liturgy, marriage, baptism & confirmation. Informal cross-parish groupings. Sharing of skills and resources (lay & clergy). Ecumenical opportunities.	Activity		
5 Growing disciples	Mission Recruitment Growing numbers	Encouragement. Invitation. Making worship worthwhile.	Numbers Finance Commitments Life		The Baptized
6 Other matters	Create a more sustainable church in the deanery	Review/reduce the number of legal parishes. Review/reduce the number of church buildings in regular use as churches. Review the use of other available resources.			