

*10. Does the role of the clergy or the Rural Dean change?*

Yes, there will be a period of transition as the clergy become able to focus more on the pastoral aspects of their ministry and less on administration and they will have the opportunity to exercise certain of their skills and interests across the whole Deanery. There will be a larger task of co-ordination for the Rural Dean and greater authority and responsibility has been handed down by the Diocese.

*11. Is it possible to find out more?*

The Deanery wish to make the proposals known to as large an audience as possible and will hold a number of meetings at various locations, commencing in the autumn of 2004. We will welcome not only members of our own church but also members of the wider community. We wish others to know what we would like to do, and to hear everyone's views.

*12. Where can I find a copy of the plan?*

A copy is available for inspection in churches in the deanery and at <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/sherborne.htm>

## THE MAIN THEMES

1. Collaborative ministry will be the means of achieving growth in ministry and mission in the Lyme Bay Deanery.
2. Collaborative ministry is about people working together effectively – about teamwork between members of the laity and the members of the clergy.
3. New approaches to ministry in the parishes will be encouraged. Parishes are encouraged to prepare their own plans for growth and to develop ministry teams. Members of the laity will take on an increased role and increased responsibility in parish activity.
4. Although the number of stipendiary clergy will reduce, their contribution as ministers will be enhanced by delegating administrative activities.
5. The Beaminster and the Golden Cap Teams will continue and the remaining Benefices will form a Group.
6. Stipendiary clergy will have the opportunity to exercise their particular skills and interests across the whole Deanery.
7. With support from the Diocese, the Deanery will share learning, knowledge and expertise which will enhance activity across parish boundaries.

## ***The Future of the Church in the Lyme Bay Deanery***

## ***The Deanery Plan***

## ***Questions and Answers***

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. *The Plan talks about “collaborative ministry”. What is it?*

It is about everyone involved with the life of the church working together and contributing their talents. This will give clergy the opportunity to further develop their priestly ministry - pastoral care together with absolving, blessing and consecrating.

2. *Surely we are only talking about collaborative ministry because the number of stipendiary clergy will reduce?*

The church has to change to respond to the reducing number of stipendiary clergy available. There should be scope for everyone to contribute and assist in the growth of the church and growth in our Christian lives. Regardless of the number of stipendiary clergy available, church life should always be about everyone involved working together.

3. *How can there be growth in ministry and mission if the number of stipendiary clergy decreases?*

We have to grasp the opportunity to become a church that is truly ministering. Through co-operation and collaboration between parishes and people, we will gain greater understanding of each others' needs. This will enable a

positive growth of the Church family across the Deanery. With the involvement of everyone, clergy and laity together, we will be more effective in ministry and mission. It is for this reason that the plan does not suggest the closure of any churches.

4. *What does collaborative ministry mean for my parish?*

It is about harnessing a range of skills and talents in the community and developing teamwork. It is also about maintaining closer contact with neighbouring parishes and sharing knowledge and experiences.

5. *What is the plan telling my parish to do or not to do?*

The intention is to give a vision and encourage parishes to grow and develop organically. It encourages parishes to start now to reflect on how they can achieve growth and to develop their own plan consistent with the themes of the Deanery Plan.

6. *Who is going to be responsible for implementing the ideas in the plan?*

Each of us, in every parish, is responsible, though the approach is likely to vary from parish to parish. Each of us will wish to learn

about how our fellow parishes propose to introduce the recommendations and share experiences.

7. *If my parish needs help, how can I find it?*

Part of the idea of collaborative ministry is openness to learning from each other and sharing experiences. The development of contact and relationships between parishes should promote the sharing of knowledge.

8. *If my parish wants to remain the same, can it do so?*

Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us about change through love and understanding people's needs. A parish that is implementing the themes in the plan will want to change and adapt and grow.

9. *In my parish we are already adopting a number of the themes in the plan, so do we need to do more?*

Of course a number of the points that the plan encourages are already being carried out. However, there is a lot of work to do to realise the full impact of the plan. We pray that a lot of what is proposed is in some way already present and a starting point from which we can all learn.