

Heytesbury Deanery Plan – 2019

Introduction

Our Deanery comprises the 3 towns of Warminster, Westbury and Mere and of the villages surrounding those towns. Administratively the Deanery is formed into groups of Churches in and around those towns. The Deanery has a population of 68,000 adults, according to the last published Diocesan Handbook, spread over 20 parishes. With 7 incumbent posts to cover these parishes, there is a requirement for a healthy flow of vocations to ordained and lay ministries. As a guideline we seek one minister (stipendiary, SSM or retired) per church and Stipendiaries will have some wider ministry than leadership of a local benefice. There are a large number of retired clergy, who form a vital resource for the Deanery.

The development of housing is growing fast and there are a number of new estates and we need to consider how these can receive adequate Church support. There is concern over the provision of health services in the area covered by the Deanery is very uncertain at the moment.

Deanery Synod has resolved to maintain a link with the Diocese of Maridi in the Sudan and which has developed well. Further assistance is required to meet the expanding needs of this link.

The Rural Dean holds regular chapter meetings. Business chapter meetings are kept to a minimum. The current emphasis of chapter is on clergy getting to know each other, to provide mutual support and encouragement, and through this to work towards cross boundary working.

The priority for our Synod meetings is to cover practical issues, share good practice, inform with presentations and to help parishes engage with mission to their populations.

Outline

What are Deaneries for? Deaneries have a number of statutorily imposed functions. Many of these involve acting as a conduit between the Parishes (on the one hand) and the Diocesan and General Synods (on the other). However, for this plan from the Synodical Governance Measure we will focus on: **"bringing together the views of the parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, through teaching and sharing"**

Seeking to achieve this is our overarching challenge as a Deanery and to help us to make meaningful progress in doing so, it is sensible and necessary to have a plan.

This document is intended to provide a framework to help us:

- identify priorities for the Deanery
- plan how we are to achieve these
- promote cooperation and coordination.

This plan has been prepared by the Deanery's standing committee, circulated to the Parishes (via the Deanery Synod Representatives) for consideration and then discussed, adopted and periodically reviewed by the Deanery Synod.

Selected priorities

In line with the Bishop's aspiration for the Diocese, **Pray – Serve – Grow**, this plan seeks to show how our Deanery will:

- **Pray:** There is no renewal without prayer. Excellence in worship and diligence in prayer is the priority of the whole of the body of Christ. The Diocesan Prayer Forum is leading the way in encouraging us all to "become a people of prayer" (Br Sam). The main focus of prayer and worship will be at Parish level and in our individual churches. However, the Deanery can help by actively providing and coordinating training and guidance for all aspects, for example Lay Worship Leader and intercessor training. It can also be a forum where good practice can be shared either in worship or the care of the buildings.
- **Serve:** "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many." All Christians are called to be Christ's faithful workers in the communities where they live and work and as a church we need to support everyone in their individual calling. For some this will be specific calling to work within the church as Churchwardens, Treasurers, LWLs, LPAs, LLMs, or as ordained ministers. The focus of service is likely to be predominately in individual

villages. The Deanery can provide encouragement and specifically coordination in the training of LPAs. It can also help coordinate the work of social action through the area.

- **Grow:** Growth can and will be both in depth and in numbers. This is an area where the critical mass of the Deanery perhaps can provide the most support for Parishes. The Deanery Outreach Group continues to promote larger events and support Parishes in more local events such as pub talks, Alpha Courses and Christianity Explored. Christian discipleship is nurtured by the arranging of adult teaching talks. School and children's work is at the heart of ministry of both Teams in the Pewsey Deanery and this has been supported by the Deanery with events such as the Life Exhibition. Growth in numbers is important as well and we should commit ourselves to targeting a 1% increase in church membership each year.

A snapshot of the current situation in our parishes of, clergy, lay ministers, lay worship leaders and lay pastoral assistants. There are 20 parishes in the Heytesbury Deanery, divided between 7 benefices:

The Parishes are:

	Benefice	Parish	Church	Stipend	SS M	LLM	LWL	LPA
1	Cley Hill	Deverills & Horningsham	4	1	1	1	3	5
2		Corsley & Chapmanslade	2					
3	Mere	Mere	1	1	0	1	0	3
4		West Knoyle	1					
5		Maiden Bradley	1					
6	White Horse Team	Dilton Marsh	2	2	0	2	2	4
7		Westbury	2					
8	Upper Stour	Upper Stour	4	1	0	2	1	2
9	Upper Wylie	Heytesbury/Tyth/Knook	3	1	0	1	2	8
10		Upton Lovell	1					
11		Sherrington	1					
12		Codford St Peter	1					
13		Codford St Mary	1					
14		Boyton	1					
15		Norton Bavant	1					
16		Sutton Veny	1					
17	Christ Church	Warminster Christ Church	1	1	2	4	5	8
18	River Were	Warminster St Denys	1	1	3	1	3	13
19		Upton Scudamore	1					
20		Bishopstrow & Boreham	2					

Priorities

- To maintain and fill the 7 incumbent posts, retaining Mere and Upper Stour as separate Benefices.
- To develop mission areas in the new housing developments.
- To encourage those seeking to develop their Ministry, through local discernment to meet local needs.
- To develop LPA and LWL in each benefice through Deanery sponsored or organised training.

Cooperation and Communication

Through inspirational and spiritual talks and presentations at Deanery Synod encourage and develop personal and corporate growth. Establish a Deanery Communications plan, with web site and news feeds.

Summary

The Deanery is well placed and populated with clergy. There is a need to develop the laity to grow and develop individual ministry. This should be achieved by Deanery events and training together.