

# Pewsey Deanery Plan

## Outline

What are Deaneries for? Well, Deaneries have a number of statutorily imposed functions. Many of these involve acting as a kind of conduit between the Parishes (on the one hand) and the Diocesan and General Synods (on the other). However, the one we wish to focus on for the purposes of this plan is this:

**"to bring 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 those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical" <sup>1</sup>.**

Seeking to achieve these things is our overarching challenge as a Deanery and to help us to make meaningful progress in doing so, it is sensible (and maybe even necessary) to have a plan.

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

- identify particular priorities for the Deanery from time to time
- plan how we are to achieve these
- promote awareness of and celebrate our successes.

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, 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

---

<sup>1</sup> *Synodical Government Measure 1969 s(3)(b)*

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.

## Snapshot of parishes, clergy, lay worship leaders and lay pastoral assistants

There are 26 parishes in the Pewsey Deanery, divided between two Teams (each of which is a benefice): the Vale of Pewsey Team (15 Parishes) and the Savernake Team (11 Parishes). The Parishes are:

- |                                       |                                          |                                   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Alton Barnes with Alton Priors      | • Beechingstoke                          | • Burbage                         |
| • Charlton St Peter                   | • Chute with Chute Forest                | • Collingbourne Ducis & Everleigh |
| • Collingbourne Kingston              | • East Grafton                           | • Easton Royal                    |
| • Great Bedwyn                        | • Ham & Buttermere                       | • Huish & Oare                    |
| • Little Bedwyn                       | • Manningford Bruce & Manningford Abbots | • Milton Lilbourne                |
| • North Newnton                       | • Pewsey                                 | • Rushall                         |
| • Shalbourne                          | • St Katharine's, Savernake              | • Stanton St Bernard              |
| • Tidcombe & Fosbury                  | • Upavon                                 | • Wilcot                          |
| • Woodborough with Manningford Bohune | • Wootton Rivers                         |                                   |

At present, there are 6 full time stipendiary clergy posts in the Deanery, 3 in each Team.

Non-stipendiary clergy in the Deanery include 2 Associate Priests, one deacon and there are a number of other priests with permission to officiate.

There are 2 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) in the Deanery, plus 2 in training.

The pastoral work of the clergy is supported by our Lay Pastoral Assistants. Currently there are 27 LPAs in the Deanery. We also have 17 Lay Worship Leaders, with one more person awaiting commissioning as a LWL.

## Annex - Steps

<b>Priority A</b>	<b>Pray</b>
-------------------	-------------

	Action	Custodians	Progress
A.1	To encourage us all to become a 'people of prayer', with prayer the bedrock of meetings and all we do - eg encourage participation in Diocesan Lent 2017 initiative	All	Diocesan Lent 2017 initiatives went down well. Rogation "Thy Kingdom Come" – good resources for prayer. Vale of Pewsey Team repeating its prayer van. LPAs and LLMs organised a prayer boat from Devizes to Honeystreet, praying as they went. "Saints and Prayer" booklet, published by Resource (for Lent) was used in Burbage.
A.2	To continue to encourage Lay Worship Leaders, intercessors, etc – eg gather LWLs together periodically; provide more information about courses		
A.3	Provide prayer inspiration via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the clergy's letters in parish magazine (where appropriate perhaps concluding with a short prayer of community or wider relevance)</li> <li>• a monthly email (maybe from the deanery) with suggested topics for prayers and/or actual prayers – perhaps including special prayers or thoughts about local topical concerns</li> <li>• other channels – eg spread awareness and encourage use of existing prayer links and resources, such as prayer apps (eg ECHO (www.new.echoprayer.com)), to encourage daily prayer</li> </ul>	Clergy  <i>[a lay person – to be identified]</i>	

<b>Priority B</b>	<b>Serve</b>
-------------------	--------------

	Action	Custodians	Progress
B.1	To encourage people in discerning vocations with a target of increasing the number of people going forward in each type of ministry, lay and ordained.		
B.2	To provide courses as required, including among others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a Lay Pastoral Assistants course</li> <li>(b) a Lay Worship Leaders course</li> <li>(c) training for chalice assistants.</li> </ul> Identify and seek to overcome hurdles to people coming forward for LPA ministry	Sara Hughes & Steve Connor (with Jennifer Totney)  Jennifer Totney  Clergy  Clergy with LPA co-ordinators.	Jennifer Totney has run a chalice assistant training course in the Vale of Pewsey Team.
B.3	To provide a forum (virtual, as well as physical) for sharing good practice and experiences in the maintenance of church buildings		

## Annex - Steps

Priority C		Grow	
	Action	Custodians	Progress
C.1	To increase the Deanery Church membership by 1% a year (which for our Deanery would mean an additional 7 members a year across the Deanery)	Stipendiary clergy + PCCs	
C.2	For the Deanery Outreach Group (DOG) to coordinate several events in Lent 2018 (in addition to DOG's programme for 2017, which includes Duggie Dug Dug praise party in April, Mark's gospel in the autumn as well as further courses)	Gerald Osborne	Lent 2018 – plans well underway for this. To be discussed further during June Deanery Synod meeting.
C.3	To continue to support work with children and young adults, youth groups in both teams, Duggie Dug Dug (see above) after school and holiday clubs	Mark Windsor & Jo Reid/Andy Thewlis	Duggie Dug Dug event on 29 <sup>th</sup> April was very successful - well attended and the audience was very enthusiastic. Rebooking for October 2018.
C.4	To continue to foster discipleship and the encouragement of people in their faith and ministry	Jennifer Totney & Alan Deboo	Jennifer & Alan held a very stimulating mock debate on 22 Feb "Who was the founder of Christianity? Jesus of Nazareth or Paul of Tarsus?". Next event is on 7 June: "The Holy Trinity: impenetrable mystery or living reality?"
C.5	Aim for growth in attendance at festival services	All PCCs	
C.6	Encourage confirmations, hoping to see an increase year-on-year in people (of all ages) coming forward for confirmation	Neil Larkey (for young people); clergy (all ages)	8 people were confirmed in the Savernake Team in January 2017 & 10 in the Vale of Pewsey Team on 30 April.

### REVIEW TABLE

Version	Date (Synod meeting)	Full review (including objectives) or partial review (review of Annex)	Notes
1.1	10 May 2012	-	Adoption of plan
1.2	6 November 2012	Partial review	Amendments to Annex, including addition of new priority
1.3	5 February 2013	Partial review	Amendments to Annex
2.1	4 June 2013	Full review	Revised priorities
2.2	12 November 2013	Partial review	Amendments to Annex
2.3	11 February 2014	Partial review	Amendments to Annex
2.4	11 June 2014 (New Triennium)	Partial review: full review deferred to November Synod	
3.1	-	-	<i>Draft produced but not progressed</i>
4.1	21 February 2017	Full review	Complete revision of priorities. Further thought to be given to Priority B "Serve" at next Synod: actions need to include some which are more outward looking.
4.2	6 June 2017	Partial review	Discussion of progress highlights
4.3	15 November 2017	Partial review	