

Salisbury Deanery - Autumn 2019

Draft Deanery Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Salisbury Deanery lies within the Sarum Archdeaconry and the Ramsbury Area of the Diocese of Salisbury. The deanery boundary is broadly coterminous with three parish council areas:

- City of Salisbury
- Laverstock & Ford (except the village of Ford itself)
- Quidhampton.

There are some fields and isolated dwellings in other parishes. The deanery boundary was extended in 2019 to bring the St Peter's Place development into the parish of Bemerton. The Longhedge and Old Sarum developments lie within St Francis parish.

The deanery has seven benefices:

- Bemerton
- Fisherton Anger (St Paul)
- Harnham
- St Francis and Stratford-sub-Castle (two parishes)
- St Mark & St Andrew
- St Martin
- St Thomas & St Edmund

In addition, representatives of the Cathedral play a full part in the life of the deanery as do the chaplains of Alabaré, and of Bishop Wordsworth School, and the Master of St Nicholas Hospital.

There are at least 18 places in the deanery where Anglican worship is offered regularly, as well as a number of sheltered and residential homes and schools. Anglican witness is diverse in style and practice across the deanery and some of the churches attract 'gathered' congregations.

1.2 This Plan sets out ways in which we can most effectively work together as a deanery, recognising that much is best decided and arranged at parish level. It should be interpreted in the light of the diocesan vision and programme *Renewing Hope: Pray, Serve, Grow*, and of the Gladwin Report which identified the diocesan values as:

- Deepening spirituality
- Going local
- Travelling light
- Working collaboratively
- Learning on the road
- Widening vision and service.

2. MISSION

2.1 The mission work of our churches is carried out at parish level. The deanery has a role in ensuring strategic issues are considered. Some city-wide initiatives are the responsibility of Churches Together in Salisbury of which all synod representatives are members.

2.2 New housing

New housing developments on the periphery of the city are furthest from the existing churches. This affects particularly Harnham and St Mark & St Andrew, and more recently Bemerton and St Francis. Synod will continue to monitor the changing population of the city, considering the implications for ministry, and supporting initiatives to ensure a Christian presence in every community.

2.3 Schools

Schools (state and private, church and secular) are distributed unevenly across the city, with a particular concentration in Bemerton and St Mark & St Andrew. Synod will

monitor engagement with schools to ensure a Christian presence in every school. Partners in this work are The Bridge and Churches Together in Salisbury. Christian presence may involve visits and assemblies or governance, particularly in church schools.

2.4 Care homes

Care homes (and sheltered accommodation) and reasonably evenly distributed across the city and visits are the responsibility of parishes. Synod will monitor engagement to ensure that none are missed, working in partnership with Churches Together in Salisbury.

3. **COMMUNITY**

3.1 The lead in civic relations lies with St Thomas's (for Salisbury City Council), St Mark & St Andrew (for Laverstock & Ford) and Bemerton (for Quidhampton).

3.2 All parishes are involved in support for charitable concerns and this is best organised at this level. Synod will monitor issues across the city and receive reports on particular areas of concern, working in partnership with Churches Together in Salisbury.

4. **PASTORAL**

We recognize that, in our context, those seeking ministry related to Baptism, Wedding and Funerals will sometimes choose a church that may not be their parish church. Together we exercise a deanery-wide ministry and, subject only to the rules relating to qualifying connection in respect of marriage, we acknowledge that our ministries will often cross benefice boundaries.

4.1 Baptism

Baptism policy varies among the churches of the deanery. Synod encourages local people to go to whichever church can best serve their needs.

4.2 Weddings

Numbers of church weddings are declining in the face of competition from other types of venue and the changing perception of the church in society. Synod will encourage its members to make known the distinctive features of a church wedding.

This may involve deanery involvement in wedding fairs and possibly a wider promotion of Bemerton's reception venue at St John's Place. Parishes may work with neighbours in providing wedding preparation and sharing other resources.

4.3 Funerals

Numbers of church funerals and church-led funerals at the crematorium are in decline. This is caused partly by a perception that church is only for church-goers. Synod will encourage its members to ensure a wide understanding that the church is there for all people in their need.

We shall produce a guide to Anglican funeral ministry and contact details, for distribution to local funeral directors. This is to ensure that under the Synod's supervision, funeral directors are offered an efficient and effective service. Synod will consider ways better to publicise the distinctive features of Anglican funeral ministry.

5. **SOUTH SUDAN**

5.1 The deanery does not have a living link with a diocese in South Sudan. This has not always been the case. Two benefices (St Paul and St Francis) have fruitful connections. A link is transformative for both deanery and diocese, beginning with prayer and the sharing of news, and then moving to practical cooperation.

5.2 It is suggested therefore that the deanery forge a new link with the diocese of Juba. In the first place this would be about mutual prayer.

6. STRUCTURE

6.1 Parishes are busy and it is important that they come together only to further their work of mission and ministry.

6.2 Deanery Synod meets twice each year to review the working of this plan and also to consider the implications of the Gladwin report. Synod will also discuss elements of the diocesan and national agenda for the Church of England and may at times be formally consulted on policy.

Synod will bring together parishes to identify areas in which shared working or the pooling of expertise will reduce the administrative burden on parish officers.

6.3 Churches Together in Salisbury brings together synod members with representatives of other churches and meets three or four times a year to consider mission activities best dealt with ecumenically.

6.4 Chapter brings together clergy with responsibilities in parish or chaplaincy for mutual support and meets around ten times each year.

6.5 Other clusters bring together neighbours in informal groupings where they find they work and pray well together.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Synod has a modest budget raised occasionally from parish contributions. Synod will continue to minimise spending from Synod funds.

7.2 Synod will have oversight of the Parish Share scheme through its standing committee.