

MINUTES OF THE ROMSEY DEANERY SYNOD – WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE AT
LOCKERLEY & EAST DEAN MEMORIAL HALL

Present:	House of Clergy	4	Apologies:	House of Clergy	4
	House of Laity	17		House of Laity	6
	Visitors	8			

1.

Archdeacon Peter opened the meeting explaining that this evening they would be talking about the process of change. He said that very few plans turn out how you want them to, but there are always ways to get around the problem. However this planning will give the deaneries opportunities to make changes for the future.

2.

The opening prayer was led by Archdeacon Peter, who apologised that he was unable to stay for the whole evening as he had a heavy cold.

3.

Archdeacon Paul then explained that we want to be a mission shaped by God, with everyone playing their part. He said that 4 strategic priorities have been identified to help shape the mission of the future. 3 years ago we did the first dMAP (deanery mission action plan) with p/bMAP (parish/benefice mission action plans) the year after. We are now revisiting these plans, and are also developing the archdeaconry level – aMAP.

The power point presentation was not used, but the link to this presentation will be attached to the minutes sent by email to all synod members.

We were provided with a one page summary of the Archdeaconry Mission Action Plan – a copy of this is as follows:



ARCHDEACONRY MISSION ACTION PLAN 2017

A one-page summary for deanery synods

12 areas of mission focus

- Shaped by our 4 Diocesan Strategic Priorities;
- Developing common themes discerned during the development of our dMAPs & pMAPs;
- Aiming to achieve Sustainable Growth for the Common Good.

5 areas of work in progress

- The Diocesan Rule of Life: 'Sharing God's Life' - a pattern for loving, living and serving that provides the foundation for our mission spirituality;
- Companion Links: widening and deepening our engagement with God's mission in other cultures and contexts and learning from and with our Links;
- Strengthening engagement with all schools;
- Fresh expressions of Church: developing contextual forms of Church for our changing culture, primarily for people who are not yet members of any church;
- Alpha/Pilgrim initiative: a network of evangelism and discipleship courses across the diocese.

3 smaller projects

- Thy Kingdom Come: focus on prayer from Ascension to Pentecost and Cathedral event;
- Social Transformation: promoting social engagement and social enterprise through Winchester Social Enterprise, beginning with a network of diocesan 'Launchpad Early Years' pre-schools;
- Increasing Vocations: 50% increase in vocations to lay and ordained ministries and up to 8 additional curates each year over the next 3 years.

4 Major 'step-change' projects (seeking funding from the Church Commissioners)

- Rural mission: 'Benefice of the Future' – 3 pilot benefices test and learn from new models for rural evangelism and discipleship;
- Major Development Areas: church support for community development and pioneer mission in areas with over 250 new homes;
- Further and Higher Education: grow and deepen our engagement with students and institutions;
- Resource Churches planted: 2 Resource Churches in large conurbations that produce 2 further church plants;

4. We were asked to consider which of the 12 points were most relevant to us in our deanery and parishes; what we can celebrate from our current dMAP; how this links with our pMAPS and how this will link with aMAP. We are asked to review our dMAP in the light of aMAP and share the final plan as a synod in February. We also looked at the 5 areas of work in progress. We were asked to write down any questions we had which could be handed in at the end of the meeting for further discussion at a later date.

One of the current areas of work is 'Sharing in God's Life' – developing a rule of life. [NB: this is planned to be the focus of our next Deanery Synod meeting in October]. We were encouraged to explore this further. Resources can be found at the following address:

www.winchester.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/.../Rule-of-Life-Brochure.pdf

Archdeacon Paul and the Revd Phil Dykes then continued with the presentation covering the Mission Action plan as outlined in on page 2.

5.

At the conclusion of the presentation Phil Dykes said if anyone had any questions/clarifications they could email him at phil.dykes@winchester.anglican.org.

6.

A short session was then held for any questions/comments.

A visitor for the evening commented that he had found the information very positive but felt that there was a rather negative attitude in the room. Criticism had been expressed about some of the assumptions made in the presentation eg that all areas enjoy easy access to broadband. In discussion it was suggested that many, laity and clergy, feel they have information/initiative overload. Clergy are trying to feel positive but there are the daily demands of parish life to be considered. Expectations of clergy are changing – the focus on pastoral work is being replaced by the need to be an enabling leader of the laity. For some, this is not the vocation to which they were called and leads to unease. Some people felt that the presentation had been over-general, and did not reflect the current progress/situation of our deanery. It was explained that the idea was to give all deaneries the same background information, and that the Deanery website had been looked at beforehand.

7.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

8. The Lay Chair reminded the meeting about the change of date of our next Deanery consultation: now to be Saturday 16th September at Braishfield Church Room, and said that the related questionnaire would be launched soon, and encouraged lay members to see that this was widely publicised and used.

Dates for the next synod meetings:

Thursday 12 October 2017 – Kings Somborne Village Hall

Thursday 1st February 2018 (venue to be confirmed).

See more details about other events in the Deanery on the Calendar page of

<http://www.romseydeanery.org/>

