Shaping for Mission

## Reviewing Our Deanery

There are five sections to this review: the place, the people, information and resources, Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism, and conclusions. Some parts of sections one and two and all of section three has already been completed for you, but you may want to add in any additional financial and building information that you may find helpful.

### Our Deanery – The Place

This section focuses on the geographical area of the deanery; what it includes in terms of Church of England presence, other Christian activity, other organisations and institutions, key gathering places etc.

#### 1.Church of England presence in our deanery.

This section will be completed for deaneries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Church Schools |  |
| Fresh Expressions |  |
| Chaplaincies |  |
| Parishes and Benefices |  |
| Other Anglican presence |  |

#### 2. Ecumenical partners in the deanery.

What formal ecumenical partnerships or Churches Together groups are there in the deanery?

Where are there good informal ecumenical relationships?

Where are other denominations or Christian organisations doing work that we could support rather than repeat?

Where are the bits of our deanery with no, very little, or no effective Christian presence? *(For example new housing estates)*

#### 3. Partnerships and networks

What organisations operate in this deanery with whom we have shared values?

What resources are there in this area whose work overlaps with our mission and ministry?

#### 4. Institutions and organisations

What major institutions and organisations are there in this deanery? What connections do we have with them? *(Hospitals, prisons, universities etc)*

What schools (other than church schools) do we already have relationships with?

Are there any big employers in this deanery, and / or big centres of employment? *(Factories, shopping centres, etc)* What connections do we have with them?

#### 5. Gathering places and Centres

Where are the main centres or gathering places in this deanery? *(town centres, larger villages, community halls, etc)*

What are the distinctive geographical features of the deanery and / or places of particular interest?

What are the geographical opportunities and challenges of the deanery, in terms of thinking of collaborating and joining together across the deanery?

#### 6. What else is useful to note about the geographical area of the deanery?

### Our Deanery – The People

This section is looking at the make up of your deanery in terms of both the general population and the Anglican population. Some of this section has already been completed for you.

#### 1. Population

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Approximate population of your deanery (number of people who live in the geographical area? |  |
| Number of people who attend Anglican churches in your deanery |  |

#### 2. Formal Roles

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of Authorised or Licensed Lay Ministers in your Deanery |  |
| Number of people with formal lay roles *(Church wardens, treasurers, PCC secretary)* |  |
| Number of Clergy, Stipend and NSM |  |
| Any other paid roles *(church administrators, youth workers etc)* |  |

#### 3. Volunteers

Are people in your deanery involved in any of the following on a voluntary basis? The table has been filled out using the Diocesan mission stats and information from the Dementia- Friendly Church network, Eco Church and Places of Welcome.

* Do add in any further categories you think are important here
* Do amend anything you think is out of date or inaccurate

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Places of Welcome |  |
| Dementia-Friendly Church |  |
| Eco Church |  |
| Sunday school / Sunday kids work |  |
| Parent/ carer and toddler group or play group |  |
| Youth work |  |
| Community Café |  |
| Foodbank |  |
| Pastoral provision |  |
| Night shelter or other homeless provision |  |
| Money matters and debt advice |  |
| Breakfast / after school clubs |  |
| Mental Health support connected with the church |  |
| Support / activities for older people |  |
| Other community activity |  |

### Our Deanery – Buildings and Financial Information

This section will be filled in before the template is given to the deanery team.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What buildings do we have? |  |
| Share payment history (over last 5 years) |  |
| Subsidies available from either low income community funding or mutual support |  |
| Summary statement about affordability based on points 1-3 |  |
| Churches in the Deanery that are on the buildings at risk register |  |

### Our Deanery – Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism.

Consider the following headings. Make notes on the mission and ministry in your deanery in these areas. You will want to consult as widely as possible across the deanery to respond to this section. What is happening? Where is God at work? Consider all ages and stages of faith across the breadth of the Deanery, including your chaplaincies, schools and fresh expressions as well as parishes. You may have examples of things that happened before covid, thing that started during lockdown and things that are emerging now. Any of these are worth noting in this section.

You do not have to use every heading, they are there as indicators of things to look for. If you want to see some examples of what might be included under each heading go to: https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/about-us/our-vision/shaping-for-mission/vision-of-a-healthy-deanery.php

#### Discipleship.

How does your deanery support people and communities to grow more like Christ? The different headings in this section provide a space to make notes of the different ways in which discipleship is supported across the deanery. For each heading note the key processes, events and activities that support this area.

1. **Worship, Prayer and personal spirituality** *(This may include church and online worship, regular prayer meetings, resources for prayer and spirituality.)*
2. **Study and theological reflection** *(This may include Bible studies/ small groups, online discipleship, growing new initiatives)*
3. **Nurturing new disciples** (2nd Mark of mission)*(This may include nurture courses, engaging with those baptised/ confirmed/ mentoring new disciples.)*
4. **Spiritual direction and mentoring** *(This may include use of spiritual directors, teaching on Christian living, ethics and faith in everyday life.)*

1. **Stewardship** *(This may include weekly giving, stewardship campaigns, non financial stewardship, giving to world church/charities.)*
2. **Diversity, inclusivity and community** *(This may include provision for all ages, ethnicity, work focused on intergenerational, different abilities and inclusivity, dementia friendly.)*
3. **Relating to the wider church** *(This may include relationships with other churches, global church and mission and outreach.)*
4. **Other** *(Anything else that you supports discipleship in the deanery)*

#### Vocation

In what ways is vocation encouraged in your deanery? How are individuals and communities supported to follow their calling to be Christ’s body transforming the world? The different headings in this section provide a space to make notes of the different ways in which vocation is supported across the deanery. For each heading note the key processes, events and activities that support this area.

1. **Exploring and nurturing everyone’s vocation** *(This may include nurture groups, promoting vocations – lay and ordained, exploring gifts and passions, online opportunities, helping understand that God calls.)*
2. **Collaboration between lay and ordained in leading worship, prayer and study** *(This may include opportunities for all ages to lead worship, lay and ordained to work together within a team, a wide variety of people leading church groups.)*
3. **Encouraging and caring for volunteers** *(This may include a supportive culture, drawing on gifts/ calling, regular contact and training and a healthy turnover of volunteers in roles.)*
4. **Supporting whole-life vocation, Monday – Sunday** *(This may include teaching to enable discovery of vocation in home and workplace, resources, E.g. LICC, honour and support of all vocations.)*
5. **Care and loving service in the wider community** (3rd Mark of Mission)*(This may include church members active in community, groups created to meet unmet needs, active involvement in Schools, help services, E.g. food bank, debt advice etc.)*
6. **Working for justice and peace** (4th Mark of Mission)*(This may include church and members being active in campaigns to seek change, awareness of injustice, prejudice, poverty and suffering and responding, being active in politics.)*
7. **Care for creation** (5th Mark of Mission)*(This may include participation in activities with this focus, Memberships, E.g. Green churchyard management scheme, Eco church status, participation in environmental groups.)*
8. **Encouraging specific vocations and ministries** *(This may include information about different sorts of Ministry - lay and ordained, encouragement to formal ministries, encourage opening to service abroad.)*
9. **Other** *(any other ways in which vocation is supported)*

#### Evangelism

In what ways is evangelism enable in your deanery? How are individuals and communities inspired to share the Good News of Jesus? The different headings in this section provide a space to make notes of the different ways in which evangelism is encouraged across the deanery. For each heading note the key processes, events and activities that support this area.

1. **Understanding of God’s holistic mission** *(May include awareness and teaching of holistic gospel relating to things like 5 marks of Mission, expectation for God to be at work in the world and people’s lives.)*
2. **Developing approaches to evangelism that are sensitive to different traditions in the church and society.** *(This may include appreciation and support for different ways of evangelism, using the gospel to respond to context and culture, treating people as those God loves rather than those to be converted, understanding of different faiths and interfaith relationships.)*
3. **A culture of invitation and relationship building with those on the fringes of church** *(This may include* *intentionally re-engage with new members such as baptism families, attendees to one off events etc, having a culture of ‘Invitation’ creation of come-back activities, encouraging others to invite.)*
4. **Building personal relationships in the wider community that can lead to faith** *(This may include chaplaincies in community, working with Schools, meeting local needs, attending community events, local visiting.)*
5. **Creating confidence in sharing personal faith** *(This may include encouragement and opportunities for congregation to share their faith, courses to support this E.g. talking Jesus.)*
6. **Creating a missionary presence through digital media** *(This may include online worship, good website access, Church has presence on social media, people equipped to share faith on social media.)*
7. **Creating spaces to deepen relationships and explore questions of life and faith** *(This may include courses such as Alpha, discussions and events in community venues and pubs, open meals as safe spaces to explore big questions, halfway points created such as book clubs, sports sessions etc.)*
8. **Discovering and releasing those called to be evangelists.** (*This may include people with gifts in sharing faith identified, given training and support, opportunities to tell people directly about the Christian faith.)*
9. **Sharing good practice across the deanery** *(This may include Sharing things that work amongst churches, making Deanery Synod a sharing ground for vision and review and celebration.)*
10. **Planting fresh expressions of Church**(*This may include Identifying communities were fresh expression are likely to be needed, knowing how they belong to the deanery and have appropriate involvement.)*
11. **Other** *(Any other ways in which evangelism is developed and encouraged in the deanery)*

### Drawing some Conclusions

Looking at the information you have gathered for the review, make notes in the following areas:

1. **What themes, issues or even words came up repeatedly?**
2. **What are some of the main strengths of the deanery?**
3. **What are some of the areas of weakness?**
4. **Where is good collaboration and partnership happening?**
5. **Where is energy being wasted?**
6. **What are some of the key challenges the deanery faces?**
7. **What is unique about this deanery?**
8. **Looking at all of your responses, what do you think is the vocation of this deanery?** *This will be the focus of the vision setting process, any notes you make here will help as you start that piece of work.*