

Stroud Deanery Synod 16th February 2022

Deanery Strategic Plan – Introduction

This item on the agenda will be an opportunity for everyone at the meeting to contribute to our thinking about the way ahead for the Deanery in the coming years. If you're able to come early for coffee you can start to make your comments then, but there will be another opportunity when we reach this item on the agenda. You will be provided with post-it notes to make your comments on the flip charts around the room and sticky dots to add where you agree with comments others have already made.

The Standing Committee, strengthened with clergy involvement from the benefices not already represented on the Committee, has had two day-long sessions with the facilitator provided by the Diocese. As we started to develop our plan, we have discussed:

- The purpose of the church
- The role of the deanery
- A range of data about the parishes, teams and benefices across the diocese including local links such as schools and community or ecumenical partnerships
- What our current situation is in relation to various aspects of our life as church in this area and how things would be in five years' time if nothing changed.
- **What we want/ need those aspects to actually look like across the Deanery in five years' time.**

This last point is the one that we want you to contribute to, replicating the exercise we did at our last session and the topics are:

- Worship
- Finance
- Buildings
- Children, schools and young people
- Discipleship – deepening faith
- Evangelism
- New housing
- Community engagement
- Environment and justice
- People (ordained, lay, volunteers)

The focus is on the deanery, how we can work together to achieve our goals as a church, face difficult decisions and support new growth.