

# Stroud Deanery Strategic Plan - September 2022

## OUR VISION

The Deanery seeks to inspire, resource and support renewal; to set a higher bar in holiness and service; to release and enable worshipping communities to be what God has called them to be.

We aim to achieve:

- **We will encourage a narrative of abundance rather than scarcity**
- **We will seek to have mutually flourishing and sustainable worshipping communities**
- **We seek to have our clergy and laity resourced and released for ministry**
- **We need buildings that serve our ministry and mission**

And to do this through engagement and consultation with the people in the pews so that the vision is owned by all and actions are locally generated or locally informed.

## What can be done together to help achieve the vision?

### 1. A narrative of abundance rather than scarcity

- Start the conversations being hopeful and trusting, rather than pessimistic and negative
- Small incremental changes can have a long term effects
- Notice what God is already doing
- Vision Sharing' time at Chapter
- Share positive stories on the website and on social media of successful things already happening around the Deanery
- Celebrate our different riches
- Some Sundays – all churches to focus on one particular theme – collectively working together, aligned with shared actions
- Dedicated Prayer time – encourage our worshipping communities to actually seek God

### 2. Mutual flourishing and sustainable worshipping communities

- Chapter to lead on thinking through what that looks like, encouraging and supporting one another
- Re-introduce 'Green Shoots' item at Deanery Synod in some form that links to the vision
- Sharing accountability for resolving the Parish Share deficit

- Deanery financial champions' group – develop collegiate responsibility and shared solutions through quarterly or six monthly meetings supported by Area Dean, Lay Chair and Finance Lead Asst Area Dean
- Engaging with Stewardship/ Parish Giving Scheme; sharing good practice; helpful ideas
- Talk about money

### **3. Clergy and laity resourced and released for ministry**

- Consider more joint functions at Deanery level or groups of benefices e.g. hall bookings, funerals, weddings
- Possible Deanery Funeral Project from one central point within the next 5 years
- Joint contracts on general church maintenance, trades people, gutter cleaning etc or at least sharing information about good sources.
- More Deanery events such as confirmation preparation, Day of Prayer, Lent course, Stewardship course and/or sharing of resources for courses.
- Consider where and how to deploy clergy, rethinking the way stipendiary clergy are supported and resourced
- Share tasks so clergy and laity all do what they are called to do, and are trained in those shared roles
- Think about function rather than place
- Diversity within the leadership team

### **4. Buildings that serve our ministry and mission**

- Develop a Deanery Vision for our physical buildings that thinks creatively about how we get our buildings to serve our purposes for mission and ministry
- Set out the options for all our buildings in discussion with the local communities which might include
  - Continuing in current pattern of use
  - Identifying additional uses
  - Identifying alternative uses where current pattern can't be sustained
  - Building closure
- Consider identifying a Deanery Buildings Advisor (voluntary)
- There needs to be a Diocesan Corporate Strategy to support delivery of this approach.