

Stroud Deanery Strategic Plan - Update for Deanery Synod

The Deanery Leadership Team met on 11th April with the main discussion item being the feedback on the Strategic Plan from PCCs. There was a huge range of comments but there were some themes that emerged from them and we were able to identify some actions to take forward.

Personnel and Expertise

- Continuing difficulties in many places in filling key roles, which led to discussion of how to support people in taking them on and get expertise passed on. ***This could be addressed by a session in the early summer after APCMs for all office holders new and experienced to gather and share knowledge, ask questions etc.***
- Treasurers' WhatsApp has been established to ease communication and mutual support. ***Do encourage your Treasurer to join the group.***
- Some parishes are cross-checking each others' accounts
- Minchinhampton's Electoral Roll officer is happy to support others needing advice
- Difficulties in identifying Parish Safeguarding Officers ***This role can be, and is already in some places, one person to cover several parishes. Another alternative is to share the role between two people.***

Buildings

- These continue to be the main challenge in many parishes.
- Sourcing grants feels complex and difficult ***Workshops are being organised centrally to help with this***
- Stroudwater team has already found the benefits of working across parishes to share good practice on building issues
- Day to day running of a church continues to be by a small group of dedicated people in many places.

Working together

There was evidence from the feedback of shared work in a number of ways:

- Partnering with others rather than trying to do everything ourselves
- Thinking about what else we can do together, either at whole Deanery level or in more local groups – events/jobs/fundraising
- There is growing understanding of collaboration as the norm and the best way forward

What next?

We noticed that there is not yet much focus in our plan and feedback on children and young people and we need to give further thought to what might be the most valuable thing we can look to the Youth Connectors to help and support us to develop.

Other actions to take forward are:

- Include Prayer and Mission in the opening paragraph of the Plan
- Decide on the particular things we are going to act on, planning to focus on a small number of things and do them well.
- Keep an eye on the right point to put together a Parish Magazine article to spread awareness.
- Identify specific areas of training required and where to find that training, or one particular idea for a specific project/any kind of mission and ministry event

Keep in Touch

Thank you to everyone who contributed to such useful feedback. The Deanery Leadership Team meets next on 18th June so do let one of us know if you have any further thoughts to share.

Sue Murray

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