



The Deanery of Stroud

Diocese of Gloucester

Area Dean - Rev. Mike Smith

14 February 2017

Dear friends,



Breathing Life into the Deanery

At the last Deanery Synod, Bishop Robert led us into the beginnings of discussions on how we make the Diocesan Vision a reality in our own part of the diocese.

The beauty of the Life Vision is that, unlike many past Diocesan initiatives, it has come from conversations held at local level. These have shaped the priorities for the whole Diocese (us!).

Our task now is to work out our own priorities both for our Parishes or Benefices and also for the Deanery.

We are being invited to dream dreams and to look beyond the four walls of our churches to see what opportunities we think there are to reach out, even if we don't feel equipped to do so right now. Part of that process of looking is to identify opportunities but also look at the resources we might need to make it all happen.

The Deanery (us again!) is being asked to put together a Life Plan – a set of priorities for the next few years and to see what we might need to achieve these priorities in terms of both financing and leadership.

There are funds available from the Diocesan Development Fund or the Sylvanus Licence Trust to enable Mission projects. There is also to be some targeted use of the Diocesan Stipends Fund to support parishes where good things are happening, but who struggle with their Parish Share.

Alongside this local work, groups of people are being gathered from across the Diocese to be facilitators, trainers and leaders across each of the Life Vision themes to enable local initiatives to get off the ground.

To achieve our part in this, we are asking that each Parish – or Benefice – discuss the enclosed document and feed back your response by March 31st to me so that we can put together an outline Life Vision for Stroud Deanery before the May Synod.

With every good wish,

Rev. Mike Smith