

*Here are some questions for you to consider and respond to. Please send your thoughts and responses as a Church or Benefice to Rev. Mike Smith by Friday March 31st.*

*Email: vicar@thenailsworthbenefice.co.uk*

**Questions for feedback to begin building a Deanery Life Plan**

1. Across the whole vision what especially strikes a chord with you?
2. Under each of the four headings, what do you see as:-
  - a) The “golden opportunity” for your Parish/Benefice
  - b) The “biggest opportunity” for the Deanery
  - c) The greatest difficulty facing you as a Parish/Benefice
  - d) The greatest difficulty facing the Deanery
3. What resources do you need in order to achieve the ‘golden opportunity’ for your Parish/Benefice and the Deanery?
4. What needs to be done in order to address the difficulty faced by your Parish/Benefice and the Deanery?
5. If you could dream and your dream become reality, what would you dream for your Parish/Benefice and the Deanery and how could it be realised?

*Thank you for taking the time to look at these questions and for feeding back your answers. May God bless us all in our work for Him here in this Deanery.*

**Discussion Document for Stroud Deanery**  
**as we seek to develop a ‘Life Plan’**



As we celebrate the start of our journey with the Diocesan LIFE vision, every worshipping community, school, fresh expression, chaplaincy and individual is invited to think and pray about what the vision might mean for them and how they might take forward the vision in their context. There may be a particular theme or priority that resonates with something already happening, which can be further progressed, or it may be that there is something new to be discussed and developed.

Alongside this, those working on coordinating the vision process across the Diocese are bringing groups of people together to network and develop common efforts on the different priorities in our vision. Again, these common efforts may build on something already happening or may develop new plans and ideas. These groups of people will be enabled by Priority Sponsors and Priority Leaders.

Each Deanery is being encouraged to talk about the Vision statements and to discover where their priorities and opportunities lie and how they might achieve them and what further resource might be needed to make dreams become reality.

Later in the year Rev. Mike Smith and Canon Margaret Sheather (our Area Dean and Lay Chair) will be attending a meeting to agree with other deaneries how the Diocesan Stipends Fund should be used to support ministry where it is most needed to help achieve the vision.

We will also hope to identify projects where we might put in a bid for funding to the Diocesan Development fund or the Sylvanus Licence Trust.

For that to happen, we need to be building a 'Life Plan' that identifies our priorities as a Deanery for the next five years. This leaflet is to stimulate discussion around the main themes of the Diocesan Vision to enable us to build a vision for our Deanery.

What we are asking is that this be taken back to your Parishes and Benefices to be talked about to identify key priorities for you with submissions coming back to Mike by Friday March 31st. These will be collated and a draft Life Plan will be presented to the May Deanery Synod before Mike & Margaret go to the Parish share bidding meeting in June.

This leaflet is to remind you of the four priority areas identified by the Diocese. Please use it to consider which are the priorities for your parish, benefice and the Deanery and return the accompanying feedback form so that we can begin to move forward in our quest to help build the Kingdom of God...

## **L** Leadership: Committed to transformation

- Developing diverse lay and ordained leaders from the communities we serve
- Piloting liberating models of leadership and ministry, especially in multi-parish benefices
- Creating learning networks for lay and ordained leaders

## **i** Imagination: Opening new paths to faith

- Investing in our engagement with baptism families to spark an amazing adventure with Jesus Christ

- Placing schools at the heart of our mission with creative connections between churches and schools
- Encouraging new and courageous ways of worshipping, in different places, which connect with more people
- Approaching the use, upkeep and future of our church buildings in bold and creative ways

## **f** Faith: Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

- Enabling people to discover new depths to prayer and spiritual growth, individually and together
- Nurturing confident disciples to live out their faith seven days a week
- Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media

## **e** Engagement: Living out Christ's love and hope

- Being advocates for human flourishing, through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation
- Using sport, music and art to build relationships and share the Christian faith
- Connecting with new housing developments in innovative ways
- Investing in people and programmes, which excite young people to explore and grow in faith