

A short report on Deanery Synod activity through the year.

Much of the Deanery Synod activity earlier in the year took place with the backdrop of the pandemic. The main theme of the Synod meetings are the restructuring changes that will take place within the diocese. The proposals for Portsmouth Deanery follow largely the Deanery plan submitted to senior staff in February and approved by Deanery Synod. These would be based around the current suggested groupings with one or two adjustments. Conversations are planned with those who might be affected by these adjustments as soon as we can after Easter.

Towards the end of June Bishop's Council will be asked to make a decision on the priorities for addressing the order in which changes will need to be made, and which areas in each deanery to begin. The more intense restructuring work is expected to happen over the next two years with then a further three years for embedding these new structures and supporting people to work in a new way. Meanwhile it is likely that we will be starting some form of consultation/conversation with all parishes this summer.

The consultations that have already taken place have initiated various conversations and considerations about more collaborative working and we very much hope that these can be developed over the coming months and years, irrespective of when the restructuring of your area is scheduled to begin. The diocese will seek to support this as best as they can and look forward to hearing from synod members what next steps their area may wish to take.

There is an awareness to live with a level of ambiguity which may be uncomfortable at times but hope that by continuing to talk and explore together we can support each other through the changes that may lie ahead.

Deanery Synod Way Forward

The proposed way forward with the Deanery Plan and the discussions about what groupings will work best in the Deanery. It is unlikely that all of these will be addressed at once, but that over coming years they will develop and the move to teams will be gradual. However, it will be good to agree together with the Diocesan Team which groupings will be best (and our current plan goes a long way towards that) and then what we can do now to develop relationships and share resources in mission and ministry together.

Proposed next steps Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee met on Thursday 6th May 6pm on Zoom to consider proposed groupings and process. This meeting set Deanery Synod Date and Agenda. The membership of Standing Committee will be confirmed in the coming days.

Post 6th May – local discussions in each grouping arranged by Paul, Allie and Bob White with Archdeacon Jenny and Jenny Hollingsworth as appropriate.

Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee meets 26th May 6pm (possibly in a room!) to hear of progress and to refine Deanery Plan and agree priorities. This will create a paper for Deanery Synod – which will be sent to Parishes.

Deanery Synod Tuesday 8th June (in a Church or Zoom?) (7.30 or 6pm) – to approve paper identifying groupings and priorities – this has to be submitted to Diocese by deadline of 11th June.

Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee meets – post Bishop's Council meeting which will consider the groupings and priorities – **6pm July 7th** – to set pattern for rest of year.

The Cathedral's Deanery Synod Representatives are: Marian Pottinger, Kitty Price and Chris Nicol

Chris Nicol
Deanery Synod Rep

