

Notes of Deanery Synod Meeting held on 17th September 2013

Four new Anglican appointments to the Deanery introduced themselves:

- Revd. Harvey Gibbons now priest in charge of St Barnabas (Gorsehill), All Saints (Ferndale) and St Augustine's (Rodbourne)
- Fr. Dexter Bracey priest in charge of Swindon New Town ie. St Marks, St Lukes, St Saviours
- Revd. Patrick Mukholi Pioneer Minister in Penhill
- Revd. Bill O'Connell priest designate of Wanborough, Hinton Parva, and Bishopstone and also Deanery Missioner

Deanery Strategic Plan

This has been a working document for over a year. Simon Stevenette (Area Dean) has been working hard on starting to implement some of the ideas. Officers from churches have come together socially so that they can support one another better. Following a discussion of points raised by this final draft the Deanery voted to:

Enthusiastically endorse the enclosed document as our Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015. We will do all we can to make it a reality by our prayers, our practical support and by communicating its contents with the churches, parishes and chaplaincies of which we are a part.

Discussion in small groups followed about Deanery priorities:

- How can we meet the spiritual needs of North Swindon and other new housing areas?
- What should the priorities be of the new Swindon Deanery Missioner and how can we support him?
- How can we support the work of our 2 pioneer ministers in Pinehurst and Penhill? What other ' Fresh Expressions' is God calling us to pioneer ?
- What is the role of our stipendiary clergy? How can we encourage the growth of new licensed ministers across the Deanery ?

All churches are asked to think about these questions and pass on ideas to any member of the Deanery Leadership Team.

What are the key factors involved in growing churches and building disciples?

Revd. David Chedzey (Adviser for Ministerial Development) shared some of the results based on an analysis of Kingswood and South Gloucester Deanery (full text of this presentation is attached). Of the growing churches he looked at there was a range of theological emphases and styles of worship. He identified 5 factors these churches had in common:

- Hospitality
- Generosity (particularly relating to sharing buildings and resources)
- Use of small groups
- Use of gifts
- Intentional growth

He encouraged all churches to be welcoming, open and offering help to all who contact them.

Deanery News

Simon Stevenette is beginning his extended study leave until 11/1/14 and Canon Raymond Adams will take over as Acting Area Dean.

Bishop Lee is continuing chemotherapy treatment.

The Lay training course 'Exploring Christianity' is running at St Andrew's Walcot, there is room for others to join.

Next Deanery synod is Weds. 4th December at St John's Hayden Wick

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