

Deanery Report for Upper Itchen Benefice Forum 5th February 2018

Deanery Synod has not met since the last Forum but the Deanery Mission & Pastoral Committee has met several times to continue to discuss and amend the deanery response (dMAP17) to the aMAP (Archdeaconry Mission Action Plan).

There has been some challenging feedback and discourse but the current version (attached) seems to accurately reflect what many feel is the right direction for the deanery to be heading in. The format for the preparation of the dMAP17 is clearly defined in the Proforma and requires us to show how we aim to engage with the four Diocesan Strategic Priorities (SPs) and the 12 aMAP Objectives in summary and in detail. We have tried to keep our aims and objectives as broad as possible to prevent being tied to something very specific in the future, although the Archdeacon has requested more information in some areas, which is reflected in this version.

The two areas that are provoking the most discussion at DMPC are the development of a Deanery Plan and, to a lesser extent, the nature of the development of Focal Ministries (Objective 1). It is important to differentiate between the dMAP objectives and a detailed plan. We have to devise, approve and present to the Archdeacon the dMAP17, with its broad objectives, and it is very much to be hoped that this may be achieved at the June Synod in order to meet the given deadline.

Once that has been successfully agreed, we can then move on to the detail of the first Objective—that of preparing a workable Deanery Plan to lead us forward through the next ten years. The document 'Alresford Deanery : Supporting Thriving Rural Ministry' is the start point for those discussions. The Deanery DMPC will continue to explore the options and opportunities available and give full consideration to all feedback received. A revised draft of the plan will be presented to Synod in October for consideration.

Devising the Plan is the biggest piece of work DMPC has in hand but, alongside this, some of the smaller objectives will be addressed, such as the Relationship Courses.

Please take the time, if you can bear it, to study the various documents. We welcome constructive feedback as this greatly aids discussions at DMPC.

Gillian Gray Knight,

Deanery Lay Chair.