

Following the recent DMPC (Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee) meeting, I felt that it may be helpful to summarise what the tasks being addressed are, in, as far as possible, lay man's terms, so to speak.

When reading this report it will help if you have to hand the 'Alresford Deanery : Supporting Thriving Rural Ministry' draft discussion document (referred to below as *DOC*) that was presented at the October Synod. We have two distinct pieces of work to address in the short term.

### 1. aMAP / dMAP Archdeaconry / Deanery Mission Action Plan

In May 2017 the Archdeacons, Richard Brand and Paul Moore, and Revd. Phil Dykes presented the new aMAP and the dMAP revision process to Synod, including the timeline for the work. All relevant documents were circulated with the minutes. A summary of the aMAP is given on *DOC page 15, Appendix 2*. It links to the Diocesan Strategic Priorities (SPs), see *DOC page 14, Appendix 1*, and refers to the Diocesan Rule of Life, *DOC page 16, Appendix 3*.

The Deanery was required to undergo a review (*DOC pages 3-6*) and then to produce a draft dMAP for September 2017, which we did, as presented to Synod in October, *DOC pages 17-20, Appendix 4*. The dMAP, as submitted to the Archdeacons, has to conform to the structure given in the 'Proforma for dMAP17' and must reflect the Strategic Priorities and the 12 aMAP Areas of Mission Focus (AMFs). *DOC page 13* attempts to summarise how the SPs and AMFs overlap—the yellow boxes—and where Alresford Deanery can engage with them.

*DOC page 12* shows the draft dMAP priorities in a single page to aid presentation and discussion for benefices and PCCs while the *Glossary* is an attempt to answer all the questions other people seem to know the answer to.

In November we were called to attend a surgery with the Archdeacons and Suffragan Bishops to discuss the draft dMAP proposals, following which various feedback comments were given. These were presented to DMPC and the dMAP has been amended in several areas. The current version, dated 7th February, will be presented to Synod in February for approval. Once approved the *DOC* will be updated accordingly.

### 2. Deanery Plan

Objective 1 in the dMAP is to devise and agree a workable Deanery Plan.

The current plan is very brief and was drawn up in haste as a response to a pressing need to have some kind of plan to lodge with the Archdeacon. We now have the opportunity to carefully consider what we would like the Deanery to look like in the future and to put in place a plan that will work towards achieving that vision. The first draft of this plan was presented to Synod in October and is the basis of the *DOC*. It presents one possible scenario for the future of the deanery and this, together with all other ideas suggested, will be fully discussed and gradually formulated into a new draft by DMPC.

There are a variety of factors to be considered, one of the external factors being the declining number of ordained priests and therefore the increasing number of vacancies throughout the country. The old plan allows for a reduction to 3.5 priests in the Deanery but it has been acknowledged that this is insufficient and so the new draft plan proposes a reduction to 4.5 and makes suggestions as to how this may be achieved. When we finally agree the plan, the position in the Deanery as shown on *DOC page 3* will be updated so that the start point of the 10 year life of the plan is accurate, for there have already been some changes since October 2017. One of these, for example, is that the Bishops are no longer planning to turn the Arle Valley into a curate training hub.

### Preparation for Synod

DMPC has received some written and verbal feedback in relation to both the dMAP and the draft Plan. It is hoped that the current dMAP will now be acceptable to Synod and that we can move forward to working on the objectives it contains, the first of these being the Plan. **To aid constructive discussions at Synod, it would be wonderful if everyone came having carefully studied the revised dMAP and the *DOC*,** (bearing in mind the revisions that will be required). All suggestions received will be taken to the next DMPC meeting when the Plan will be revised in preparation for submission to Synod in June. This process will continue until we achieve a document that Synod approves. Once that has happened DMPC can engage with all the objectives of the dMAP.