

February
2017

Chippenham Deanery Newsletter



Diocese of Bristol

Why a Newsletter? Our Area Dean Sally Wheeler writes.....

Welcome to our first Chippenham Deanery Newsletter!

The idea of a fresh approach to a newsletter has grown out of discussions with our Deanery Leadership Team with the main purpose of showing that our Deanery is a vibrant and essential part of our local churches and within the Diocese.

In addition to reporting on Bishop Mike's timely address to the Diocesan Synod in December, the contents of this newsletter are very much about our local area and parishes.

We want, through our Deanery Synod, to empower and encourage each of our parishes and benefices. That is why we have put together a clear and focused programme for 2017—see back page for details.

You will see that as well as keynote speakers we are arranging two Prayer Breakfasts: one for our rural parishes and one focusing on Chippenham and Corsham town. Archbishop Justin has called all Christians to pray for God's Kingdom to come and we will echo that in praying together for His Kingdom to come in our Deanery.



I am looking forward very much to the life of our Deanery Synod this year and pray that through it all we may know God's enabling power and inspiration for all of us.

Deanery Synod Elections 2017

At this year's Annual Parochial Church Meetings

new Deanery Synod Representatives for the next three years will be elected. (See back page for details of the new formulae for the numbers of Representatives your church can elect).

We have an exciting programme coming up for 2017 at our Deanery Synod and also it gives first hand experience of what is happening not just across our Deanery but our Diocese as well. But we also would encourage requests for discussion and debate from Parishes too.

The Deanery is meant to be a two-way organisation to help you and your church fulfil its mission and purpose. Being a Deanery Representative is a real opportunity to do this—how about standing for election this year?

Bishop Mike's Address to Diocesan Synod- Food for Thought

There were six headings in Bishop Mike's Address to the Diocesan Synod in December which give us much food for thought and discussion. Here is a summary.

Which ones could you introduce in your church during 2017 to make a difference?

1. Adopt a Culture of Invitation

What do our services 'feel' like to others- will they come back? How can we promote the confidence of our church members to invite others to our services or events?

2. Have entry level access points in our services

We need to understand the levels of Christian understanding amongst people

is less than we expect. So that should influence the planning and content of what we offer.

3. A Culture of Expectation

What do we expect from our ministry or services? If we set the bar too low, it doesn't take too much to skip over it.

Ask the question 'What could be?'

4. Develop a culture of learning

Discipleship is taught- develop a ministry of teaching as a priority. What does it mean to walk with Christ and to be the people of God?



5 A commitment to continuous improvement

Acknowledged that we have a problem and work out how do we make things it better?

6 Have a culture of exhortation

Let's aim high. People need to be challenged- exhort what God calls them to be.

Let the wind of God's Holy Spirit transform the church into what God wants it to be.

Why our Deanery matters-(Ron Pool-Our Deanery Lay Chair)

Our deanery matters as our deanery acts as a link between the parishes and the diocese.

The deanery synod, which is formed from representatives from each of the parishes, elects representatives to the diocesan synod.

This means that our deanery is an important link in church democracy

and acts as a liaising body for all the individual churches in its area.

It encourages mutual support to enable the ministry and mission of the church.

It is consulted and advises the Bishop, his leadership team and the diocesan synod.

The deanery endeavours to promote and help churches

to embrace our diocesan strategy, and encourages us to enhance connections with our linked Ugandan diocese of Mukono.

All good reasons why we need your involvement and valued contribution!



Adam's Corner (Our Deanery Missioner for Schools, Children, and Families)

Over the past year I have been reading, meeting, observing, praying, joining in, and longing to see every child and young person in the Deanery meet with Jesus. We have so much to celebrate: overflowing holiday clubs, lively and engaging children's events, fruitful relationships with schools, a trip to Soul Survivor, a good number of confirmations...

The number of children in church nationally on a Sunday is still declining .

The life of young people has also dramatically changed - more so in the last 30 years .Families are more complicated - children often live in more than one place, Sundays have adopted purposes other than church because the week is so full of activities.

For our Chippenham Deanery, I have a sense that God is challenging us to explore two areas:

Firstly, by investing in finding ways that children and their families can be church, at any time or place,

in any format, that will meet children where they are at and nurture them,

Secondly, by beginning to see our schools as part of our worshipping community. The permission we already have to work with schools gives us a huge opportunity to engage and nurture - imagine if we poured as much of our resources into school enrichment and acts of worship as we do on a Sunday! It is my hope and prayer that you and I can continue to develop what we do in these areas.

Uganda Visitors May 2017

Following Sally's visit to Uganda in 2016 an invitation has been issued to Archdeacon Wilson Kisekka to come and stay for two weeks in Chippenham Deanery so that he can learn first hand about the life of our Deanery as well as learning about the commitment and vision of the church in Uganda for ourselves.

Also we have invited Lydia Nakachwa the Headmistress of the Bishops Special School in Mukono to come with Archdeacon Wilson.

The proposed dates are 10th– 25th May 2017.

This will be a great opportunity to reenergize our partnership in the Gospel between our Deanery and Mukono.

However, we do need to commit to raise £1500 to cover air fares and other expenses to make it happen. More will be explained about this at our February Deanery Synod and we would value as many parishes as possible in taking this challenge on board.

Kingdom Building

Our primary role as a Deanery through 2016 is to be Kingdom Building embracing the Creating connections programme.

Many churches in our deanery are already taking different initiatives and we want that to be shared so that we can learn from good practice and also be inspired and encouraged to 'step out' ourselves.

(See also Bishop Mike's Diocesan address on opposite page).

The Deanery will provide the framework for what we are about by having strong, purposeful themes to our meetings .

These are occasions not to be missed! See over for our 2017 Deanery Programme.



Chippenham Deanery

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Deanery Synod Elections 2017 -The nuts and bolts

Every three years at each of our Annual Parochial Church Meetings lay representatives to the Deanery Synod are elected. These lay representatives hold over for a term of three years beginning on 1st June following their election.

At the Diocesan Synod held on 3rd December the numbers to be elected for this coming three years were reviewed and the following were decided. You will see that the number on each parishes' Electoral Roll is the determining factor.



Number on Electoral Roll	0-25	26-50	51-100	101-200
Deanery Synod Reps	1	1	2	3

What can you do next?

How about standing for Deanery Synod this year? Or, if you know someone who would be great to take that on- why not encourage them to stand?

Chippenham Deanery Programme 2017

**February 23rd
TRANSFORMATION**

A presentation from Samuel Williams from **CHRISTIAN AID** will help us explore how we can help transform lives of others. The parish focus spot will be by Rev Rod Keys of St, Andrew's Chippenham

**June 22nd
DEANERY ELECTIONS** to our Standing and Pastoral Committee.

Our Keynote Speaker will be Bishop Mike and will include an opportunity to ask questions afterwards too!

**October 12th
TREASURE**

This will focus on the environment . The keynote speaker will be announced shortly

**But, in addition.....
as prayer is a keystone to our mission and role as Christians we are planning two**

PRAYER BREAKFASTS each at 8.30am to 10am

Saturday May 20th
The first at Marshfield Church will particularly focus on Rural Church Ministry.

Saturday September 9th

The second at St Andrew's Church, Chippenham will focus on Chippenham and Corsham town.

Each Prayer Breakfast is open to all. Come, pray and share breakfast together as we pray for each other.

