

Wallingford Deanery Synod Summary 2018

The Deanery Synod provides PCCs with an important link between their parish and the wider structures of the church. Revd David Rice is the Area Dean for the Wallingford Deanery, which includes Didcot (St Peter's, All Saints', Great Western Park and Ladygrove), Harwell, Chilton, Cholsey, Moulsoford, East Hagbourne, Blewbury, Upton, South Morton, North Morton, Aston Tirrold & Aston Upthorpe, Wallingford, Crowmarsh Gifford & Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. The co-chair of the Synod is Gordon Gill.

The deanery is in the process of writing a Mission Action Plan (MAP). This is an important piece of work designed to support the mission of individual parishes and guide the life of our Synod. The output of this MAP will help the Deanery to focus on the issues considered important at PCC level in order to reflect these up to the Diocese, providing vital input into Bishop Steven's Common Vision.

As a result of consultation with parishes (through all the PCCs and Deanery representatives) the Synod has set three key focus areas for our MAP and during the three Deanery Synod meetings in 2018, the Synod focused its attention on each of these in turn:

- 1) **Development of ministry to children, young people & families**, facilitated by Yvonne Morris, Diocesan Children's Advisor
- 2) **Developing our outreach to new & settled communities**, led by Revd Ian Biscoe of Emmanuel Church, Bicester
- 3) **Development of appropriate patterns of worship** facilitated by Revd Charles Chadwick, Parish Development Advisor

In 2019, these three strands will be pulled together into a cohesive Mission Action Plan for the Deanery.

The fourth strand of our MAP, **Development of the Ministry in the Greater Didcot Garden Town area, both financially & structurally**, has been progressing with input from Bishop Colin and Revd Charles Chadwick, as well as the clergy in Didcot and surrounding parishes. Following the retirement of Revd Karen Beck from All Saints, Didcot in September, a vacancy will be advertised at the beginning of 2019 for an incumbent at All Saints who will also be the '**Bishop's Adviser on Mission to the Designated Didcot Garden Town**'. The new person will have an added remit to look at the wider issues of the new Didcot Garden Town and to produce a report within 12-18 months for both Bishop Colin and the Deanery on the opportunities it presents for mission and ministry. As the area covered by the new Didcot Garden Town impacts other deaneries, this would involve consulting with colleagues in these deaneries, as well as the various county, district and parish councils and ministers of other denomination churches. Interviews for the role will hopefully be held in March 2019. The expected population of the area designated as Didcot Garden Town is forecast to be 62,000 by 2031, compared to 30,000 in Didcot in 2016.

In addition, in 2018, we had the triennium elections to Diocesan Synod for 2018-2021. The Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the Church of England in Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. Alongside the Bishops, its membership is drawn from parishioners and clergy. The Wallingford Deanery was entitled to 2 posts in the House of Clergy and 2 in the House of Laity. After elections in the summer, our representatives are Revd Jason St John Nicolle for the House of Clergy and Gordon Gill and Sid Gale for the House of Laity.

Finally, the Parish Share for 2019 was successfully negotiated.

Wendy L Muggeridge
Wallingford Deanery Synod Secretary