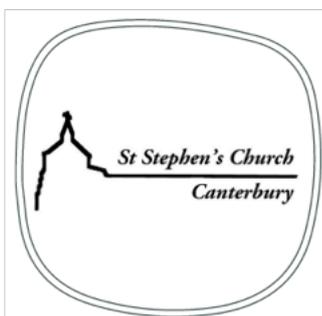
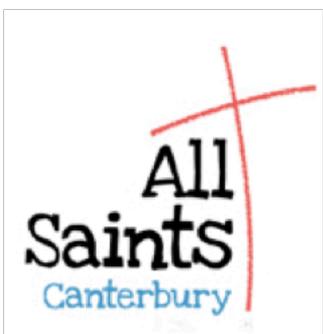


# Canterbury Deanery



**Canterbury Deanery Mission Plan 2020 – 2023**

*Seek first the  
kingdom of God  
and his  
righteousness,  
and all these  
things will be  
added to you.  
Matthew 6.33*

## **Introduction**

Canterbury Deanery is one of the oldest deaneries in the Church of England, if not the oldest. We are a diverse deanery with churches spanning the theological spectrum of church tradition, and this is something we hold dear. We believe that as a deanery we can welcome everyone across our churches to experience the welcome of God.

Over 2019 and into 2020 the deanery set upon a creative and ambitious task to write a mission action plan for the next three years. This was a creative, fun, thought provoking and collaborative process across the entire deanery. The uniqueness of this mission action plan is that this has been written by the people of the deanery of which the church leaders have contributed and not the other way around.

The problem with many mission action plans is that once they are written they are left on the computer and not looked at again, but there was so much energy put into writing this plan that we will endeavour to do all we can to fulfil our hopes and dreams to both resource, equip and inspire the people of God in its mission to share the love of Jesus who do not yet know it.

This mission plan really did change the conversation in the deanery and what you will read we hope will resource, equip and inspire you to get involved.

## **What is a deanery?**

The primary purpose of our Deanery is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to all those whom we serve in the communities into which God has placed and called us. We are equally called to make and nurture disciples and to worship the living God, to fulfil our responsibility in working for justice locally and globally, and to care for the integrity of God's Creation.

With the marks of mission in our sights we also want to support our parishes and benefices in addressing the diocesan priorities under the umbrella of changed lives, changing lives:

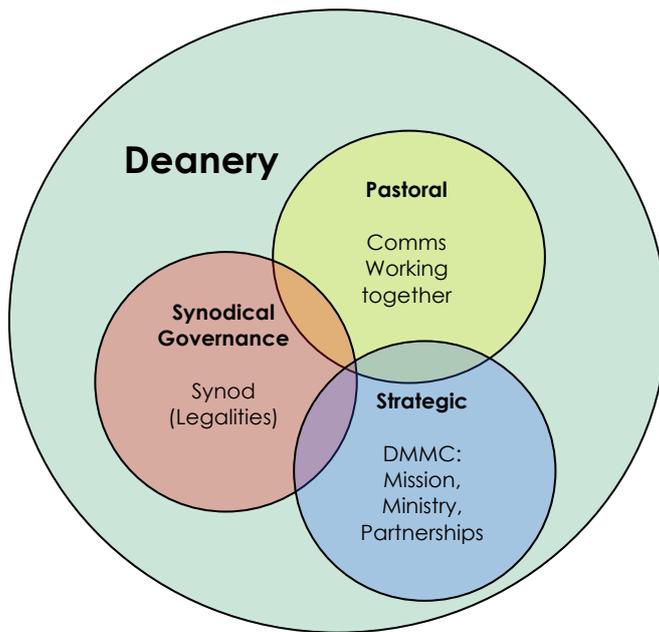
- Growing the church numerically and spiritually
- Re-imagining ministry
- Building partnerships that enrich communities.

To this end Canterbury Deanery intends to pray for, facilitate and support work in parishes and benefices, while planning for the future using what God has gifted us **all** with.

The Deanery's role has three elements to it, it has;

- A strategic oversight (mission and ministry)
- A pastoral oversight (chapter, celebration, prayer, events...)
- A legal responsibility (governance)

They all overlap with one another, affecting and interacting with each part of the Deanery's life:



Our Deanery consists of the following parishes/benefices (*in alphabetical order*):

- *Canterbury: The Benefice of St Dunstan, St Peter, St Mildred*
- *Blean: St Cosmus & St Damian*
- *Canterbury: All Saints*
- *Canterbury: St Martin & St Paul*
- *Canterbury: St Mary Bredin*
- *Canterbury: St Stephen*
- *Harbledown: St Michael & All Angels with St Gabriel Rough Common*
- *Sturry: St Nicholas w Fordwich: St Mary the Virgin & Westbere: All Saints w Hersden*
- *Thanington: St Nicholas & St Faith*

We have found that through the Deanery's rich diversity we can be a place where stories can be exchanged, plans shared, expertise sourced, joys celebrated, and sorrows shared. Contained within the city we are able to offer a range of tradition, experience and expertise to one another and our communities, therefore our natural conclusion to all of this is we want to be a Deanery that seeks to:

***encourage, resource and inspire***

each other in our collective mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in our city with the incredible gifts we have been given.

# The Canterbury Deanery Mission Plan

## It's our mission plan...

In June 2019 the Deanery embarked on a creative discernment process to seek God's will for our Deanery in the years to come. With all of the conversation, reflection, and prayer (and let's confess, the fun we had) we have discerned that to fulfil our aims we should use the structure of the Deanery to help us and give us focus.

To really make this work we need to think about how we as the Deanery implement the plan to the absolute best of our ability using the resources God has given us. We hope you want to get involved in the implementation as well as the writing of the plan! To work out how we can implement it fully we would love you to do the following...

**Please read through the rest of this document prayerfully**, listening and noticing where God is **leading you** to play a part in the life of the deanery through the mission action plan.

To help you why don't you write notes, pray and hold conversations with others on what you are reading? Perhaps you can identify people who could take responsibility for different parts or even be a part of a team *with you*, they don't have to be a part of the Deanery Synod to get involved! There will be some easy wins or obvious people to take on different elements of the plan like Chapter, our Readers or Curates, but there will be other areas where it isn't so obvious and maybe you could be the person to lead on it.

In 2021 we will use our synod meetings to talk about the different parts of the plan and see how and where people can get involved or let you know what is happening so far. We want this plan that we have written together to bring life to the Deanery, just as much as when we were putting it together. There is no rush, but it's important to know that this will be the plan we come back to again and again...! So...

**what is the Spirit saying  
to the churches of  
Canterbury today?  
Please tell us!**

**Here we go...**

# Strategic

*He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*

*Mark 16:15*

### **Our Deanery **Mission** priorities will be to:**

1. Co-operate on new housing projects and outreach, fostering partnerships with the Local Authority, other deaneries (e.g. East Bridge and Mountfield Park) and ecumenically.
2. Encourage gatherings of teenagers from the Deanery to Deanery events for interest-based projects, worship, teaching, prayer and fellowship, at a host church/cathedral, this includes outreach to young people in our communities.
3. Encourage creative cross parish partnerships in our ministry in church and community schools.
4. Look to Chapter to seek further opportunities to minister in Life Events – take a Deanery outreach approach to funeral directors, wedding fairs etc.
5. Further develop family lunches, and holiday clubs during school holidays together.

### **Our Deanery **Ministry** priorities will be to:**

1. Develop vocation events in the Deanery using Rev. Hannah Thomson, a diocesan vocations advisor.
2. Look to offer training at Deanery level rather than in a number of parishes in the Deanery - food hygiene, first aid, youth ministry, children's ministry, Intergenerational ministry etc.
3. Have a Deanery Lent Course led by our Readers and Curates in 2021.
4. Help the Deanery grapple with climate, environment, and ecological issues by encouraging our churches to become eco-churches, and work towards the Church of England's goal to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030.

### **As a Deanery we seek to develop and create **Partnerships** by:**

1. Continuing our collaborative and creative partnership with the Cathedral through the Canon Missioner, Canon Emma Pennington.
2. Encouraging a Deanery Mother's Union project in which we can all support families across the City.
3. Using the expertise of chaplains within the Deanery; schools, universities, prisons, hospitals, youth organisations etc.
4. A real commitment to shared leadership across the Deanery both lay and clergy.
5. Enhancing our ecumenical and inter-faith links.

# Pastoral

*Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them - not because you must, but because you are willing...*

*1 Peter 5.2*

**As a Deanery we will enhance the way we **communicate** with one another and the community by:**

1. Producing a Deanery Newsletter that will be distributed electronically throughout the year.
2. Circulating Diocesan Synod reports by Deanery representatives much earlier so we know what to communicate with our churches, and the responsibilities for action can be taken in good time.
3. Creating Facebook and Instagram accounts for the Deanery administered by Rev. Jo Richards. *This will be dependent on information supplied from within the Deanery.*

**As a Deanery we always seek to **work together** as the Body of Christ in Canterbury and we want to encourage, equip and inspire our churches by:**

1. Establishing shared groups to encourage, and equip and inspire each other in their field of mission and ministry, these groups can include; churchwardens (facilitated by lay chairs), treasurers (facilitated by Deanery treasurer), school workers (facilitated by Rosemary Walters), messy church leaders, chaplains, and administrators, amongst others.
2. Continuing Deanery Reader meetings and support.
3. Re-establishing an annual meeting of the 'Greater Chapter'- drawing together clergy, readers and all with PTO.
4. Encouraging an annual 'pulpit swap' of preachers, lay and ordained to be co-ordinated at the meeting of the 'Greater Chapter'.
5. Sharing of people, expertise and resources across parish boundaries.
6. Organising an annual Deanery confirmation.
7. Planning Deanery Social events throughout the year which are open to all.

# Governance

*wisdom and*

*understanding is better*

*than having silver or gold.*

*Proverbs 16:16*

A part of the **Deanery structure** is to administrate the legal responsibilities delegated to the **Deanery Mission and Ministry Committee**. A part of our responsibility will be to:

1. Work with the Archdeacon to finding a sustainable future for St. Nicholas Thanington
2. Work with the Diocese to administrate the parish share across the Deanery
3. To monitor, review and reflect on the Deanery mission plan
4. To work with parishes, and the Archdeacon as vacancies arise
5. To work with the Deanery, and the Archdeacon as we consider the future shape of Canterbury Deanery...

# Conclusion

It's important to note that the responsibility of any plan is not the people who write up the conclusions, **but everyone who has a stake in its outcomes**, and that would be all of us who are members of the Body of Christ in Canterbury Deanery. As the body of Christ all are called to serve Jesus Christ as disciples of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. God has given us all we need to love and serve Him; it is up to us to use all we have been gifted with to this end. Let us pray for our churches, our leaders, our folk, our communities that God's kingdom will come in all its fullness to the glory of God.

# Thanks

The Deanery Mission and Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone for engaging so fully with this creative process over the past year. The conversations have been full, reflective, frustrated, joyous and listened to (we hope)! What you have read today is the conclusion to all of this, and now we continue with what we have started...

If you would like to email your thoughts and reflections and any commitments, then feel free to do so to [revphilgreig@me.com](mailto:revphilgreig@me.com) (*asst. area dean*).

Thank you for all you've done, and you're going to do!