

THE
WINCHESTER
DEANERY

Deanery Synod: Morning of Saturday 15 November 2014
held at Christ Church Winchester

Speaker Notes

Reverend Karen Kousseff – We grow Authentic Disciples
Campbell Dye – We re-imagine the Church (notes to follow)
Tom Nell – We are agents of social transformation
Peter Towler – We belong together in Christ

Speaker notes

Reverend Karen Kousseff – DMPC Member and Self Supporting Minister in the Lower Dever Benefice

Summary of Karen's presentation - speaking specifically about the dMAP approach to SPI – We grow authentic disciples

Authentic?

Feedback suggests some find this term unhelpful but it's not meant as a judgment.

Example: on antiques programmes they assess the authenticity of china/silver by looking at the hallmark, the sign that says whether it is authentic and precious, or a pale imitation that has little or no value.

Being authentic in terms of Christian life means having a hallmark of discipleship: what we do as disciples is what marks us out as belonging to Christ. Discipleship is about being an apprentice, learning from someone else, studying and striving to become more like them. It's an activity, not a state; a continuing and active journey of learning about Christ, and trying to be more like him. Discipleship is defining, for us, but how are we defining it?

Defining Discipleship

After the Deanery Consultation, we (DMPC sub-committee) looked at the following:

Strategic paper from the Archbishops' Council: "Getting Discipleship into the Lifeblood"

Papers written in other Dioceses, notably Gloucester and Carlisle who have looked in detail at this subject.

What *you* said *about* discipleship at the Deanery Consultation in June: a (very!) long list of comments & suggestions, covering all age groups, reflecting all types of churchmanship, and mentioning all kinds of activity.

Broadly speaking, all agree that discipleship takes many forms, including but not only:

Prayer, Bible study, Worship, Service to others, Evangelism, Relationships

These can happen publicly and corporately, but also personally and quietly. All are valid. Over-riding concern is to increase our own confidence in talking about faith, being intentional about growing in our own discipleship before (and so that) we can grow others.

Acknowledge practicalities or constraints: what works for one church won't necessarily work for another, and what works for one group within each church won't necessarily work for another group. Some things are better organised on a Deanery or even Diocese-wide basis.

Within each parish discipleship activities will vary, dependant on what gifts people have, their different learning styles, availability of time, willingness to travel, and preferred means of communication & learning eg social media, books, online, in small groups etc. Your pMAP may well look quite different to anyone else's.

So what will we see?

Bulleted list at the top of the page (dMAP p2) gives the "trellis" on which the discipleship part of your pMAPs will build, so that discipleship (in whatever form it takes) is a hallmark of how we live. Deanery online resource centre will enable you to find out what might help you.

This is our starting line: as the pMAPs are developed, a process of reviewing and refining our direction will help make realistic goals. Our objectives are a challenge, but an exciting one. We step forward in faith and hope and prayer, working together as we try to carve out our hallmark as disciples of Christ.

Speaker notes

Tom Nell – DMPC Member and PCC for St Lawrence

Notes from Tom's presentation - speaking specifically about the dMAP approach to SP3 – Social Transformation – with a focus on youth

- We have good examples of existing initiatives
- We want to get these on a coordinated footing
- We are thinking about a resource for all

Social Enterprise, ecumenical, part funded by our churches with progress underpinned by regular review.

Aim: 'to reach and engage with a new generation in relevant ways'.

Remember that we are parents, grandparents, governors, teachers etc so we should have access and influence

- 1 Secondary schools (and higher education): initially 1 Chaplain expanding to 3 by 2017 and more beyond
- 2 Primary schools and youth organisations eg Scouts, boys clubs :
 - Review what is in place
 - Build on success and use the social enterprise as a resource
 - Plan approach and develop what we offer.
- 3 Develop a deanery wide annual event for 11-14 and 14-18 groups.
- 4 Once we have a clearer idea of what is in place and what may be needed Attract and train volunteers.
- 5 Parishes actively involved in 2 and 3 and 4.

Our aim is to see God's presence in every school, group and college and university in our deanery.

Appendix E

Speaker notes

Peter Towler – DMPC Member and PCC for Owslebury

Notes from his presentation - speaking specifically about the dMAP approach to SP4 – We belong together in Christ

Mission Partnerships – analogies to illustrate the concept

The merger of the Black Watch (BW) into the Royal Regiment of Scotland (RRS):

- Despite fears over name change, BW had maintained its own traditions, including Mess Nights, silver etc.
- Therefore retained its own distinctive identity within a larger grouping
- Benefitted from a wider pool of candidates (that is, throughout RRS) when appointees were needed for specific posts
- This should reassure parishes concerned about Partnership proposals

The position of the newly commissioned Platoon Commander:

- He is confronted with a group of Jocks ranging from the newly drafted to those who have seen 15 to 20 years' service
- He is very reliant on his Platoon Sergeant, who will be a veteran of many combat tours (cf. the newly appointed incumbent)
- The platoon needs to, and does, meld into a cohesive group before going to Afghanistan (cf. the need to create a cohesive unit within a parish/benefice first)

On tour:

- As a cohesive platoon they are able to operate on the front line with other soldiers drawn from, first, the Serbian Army, who have undergone military training (cf. other Anglican parishes) and second others, such as the Afghan police/army, who have had no such training and have a different culture (cf. other denominations).

New Lay Ministries

There is no point in creating larger benefices with one stipendiary minister, because that will just increase the workload and the stress levels - these need to be alleviated by creating more lay ministries. In contrast with old Reader system, these can be targeted so that an individual is trained and authorised in one or more specific areas, such as pastoral visiting, speaking etc.

Such ministries should be partnership, rather than, parish based

Deanery Role

Some ministries should be Deanery-wide, such as work in secondary schools.

There would be merit in creating a Deanery Hub in Winchester, which would be a visible presence of the Church in Winchester.

Finally:

We faced two options.

Either we continued to play the old 'CD' of COSY DECLINE or we changed to the new 'DVD' of DYNAMIC VISIONARY DEVELOPMENT.