

During 2017 we will be revising the Deanery Mission Action Plans (dMAPs). This will follow the same three phases used in the pMAPs: Review, Plan and Act.

Each deanery will follow the same process:

Review Phase: Celebrate what has been achieved in the past three years through the dMAP and consider whether there are the necessary resources in place for the future.

Plan Phase: Re-imagine the workings of Deanery Synod and respond to the proposals from the Archdeaconry Mission Action Plan. The objectives produced will also be reviewed to ensure that each deanery does a few things and does them well.

Act Phase: Begin the necessary consultations to enable any pastoral changes to go forward, as well as pressing on towards the agreed objectives.

<http://www.winchester.anglican.org/about-us/strategic-priorities/mission-action-planning/>

We are looking for people who have:

- › A passion for Jesus Christ
- › A passion for your local church
- › A passion to improve communication from parish to diocese
- › A passion to engage more fully with diocesan and national decisions
- › A passion for the 'big' picture
- › A passion to be part of building the kingdom
- › A passion for bold, innovative and careful thinking
- › A passion for dynamic and organic change
- › A passion for seeing your deanery as a strategic unit for mission and ministry
- › A passion to live the mission of Jesus

What can I do as a member of a Deanery Synod?

1. Make sure that those elected to Deanery Synods are people who have some responsibility in their parishes.
2. Ensure that there is time on your PCC agenda for reports from Deanery (and Diocesan) Synods. Your role is as much about communication as it is about voting.
3. Bring matters you feel strongly about to your PCC for debate so that motions can be sent to Deanery Synod for wider discussion.
4. Ask questions of Deanery officers.
5. Learn as much as you can about your parish and the deanery. Aim to get to know one new person on the Synod each time you meet.
6. Pray for the Area Dean, Lay Chair and Deanery Synod members.
7. Remember that you are a representative of your parish and not a delegate. The vote you cast is your own.
8. Don't be afraid to speak. It may not be easy but your view matters. Join in discussions. Don't let others do all the talking!

What is Deanery Synod? What does it do?



The Deanery Synod is the link between your PCC and the Diocesan Synod and has an important life of its own. The Deanery Synod is part of the system of Government established by the Church of England by the Synodical Government Measure of 1969. The normal life of the Deanery Synod is 3 years. More and more often – decisions which affect the parish are being made by Deanery Synod.

The word 'Synod' comes from two Greek words meaning 'the way' and 'together'. It describes a partnership of church members, bishops, clergy and lay people together. It consists of two Houses, one of laity, mainly elected by people in the parishes, and one of clergy, largely consisting of the licensed clergy.

Responsibilities

- › To serve and help to deliver the diocesan Strategic Priorities, engaging in the deanery Mission Action Planning (dMAP) process.
- › To prepare and update Mission & Pastoral Plans based on the detailed local knowledge of those involved—this is one of the most important areas of strategic work for all deaneries.
- › To monitor and support the collection of the Common Mission Fund (CMF).
- › To vote in the General Synod elections. Elections are next due in 2020.

- › To share, as much as you can, in deanery projects, whether services, festivals, fund-raising, entertaining visitors from overseas link dioceses or other ventures.

Officers & Committees

The House of Clergy is chaired by the Area Dean who is appointed by the Bishop. The Chair of the House of Laity is elected from and by the lay members at the beginning of each three year term. The Area Dean and Lay Chair share the chairing of the Synod.

The Synod elects its own Secretary and Treasurer and such committees as it needs. Synods vary enormously in this respect, but all need a Standing Committee to plan its affairs. Finance and Pastoral Committees are also desirable.

The Chair of the Deanery Finance Committee is involved in the diocesan consultative process on the annual budget and plays an important part in the communication process between deanery and diocese.

Members of the Pastoral Committee work with the Southern and Northern Area Mission & Pastoral Committees which have responsibility for reviewing the deployment of stipendiary clergy across its deaneries and for initiating any requirements for pastoral reorganisation.

In 2017 we will be refreshing our deanery mission action plans (dMAPs). As a diocese we want to see synods which are geared to delivering our strategic priorities by engaging with the mission action plan process at parish, deanery and archdeaconry levels. This will mean re-imagining how deanery synods function and what they need to prioritise in their meetings.

We will also be celebrating what has been achieved in the dMAPs in the last three years, reviewing resources deaneries have to do the work God has called them to, making the links with pMAPs and the aMAP proposals, and sharpening the focus of the dMAPs so that they do a few things and do them well. If you stand for Deanery Synod for the next three years you will be involved in delivering these. **It's an exciting time to be involved in the synodical process.**

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In 2013, the Diocesan Synod agreed the following Strategic Priorities:

Under God, delighting in His grace and rooted in the Diocesan rule of life, we will be a Diocese in which:

We grow authentic disciples, going out as individuals passionately, confidently and courageously sharing their faith, and coming together as creative church communities of prayer and worship that live out Kingdom values.

We re-imagine the Church intentionally connecting and engaging with our local communities in culturally relevant ways. We will rejoice in the richness of the 'mixed economy' of all ministry and proactively promote vibrant parochial and breath-taking pioneering ministries amongst 'missing' generations, eg children, young people, under 35s.

We are agents of social transformation using our influence as a Diocese to transform public and personal life. We will demonstrate loving faith at work in local communities and across the globe bringing healing, restoration and reconciliation, eg through education, social enterprise, health care, spiritual care teams.

We belong together in Christ, practising sacrificial living and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. We will combine radical generosity, care and capacity building with a clear focus on directing finance into the mission of Jesus. Sharing and multiplying local good practice, using people, buildings and other resources wisely, we will seek to boldly prune, plant and invest in building for the Kingdom.

These strategic priorities give us a framework to evaluate what we are doing and to direct and focus our resources for the future. We are committed to implementing these priorities through Mission Action Planning at every level - in the parishes, the deaneries and the archdeaconries. What it looks like will be different at each level. Our aim is to bring about a step-change in key areas of our common life, building on a steady uplift in all aspects of diocesan life.

Taking guidance and key themes from the dMAPs and pMAPs that have taken place since 2013, **the Diocesan Synod Conference in October 2016** drew together a draft Archdeaconry Mission Action Plan (aMAP) for the diocese. The aMAP – pending approval by Diocesan Synod in March 2017 – will contain new initiatives and projects to help achieve sustainable growth for the common good.

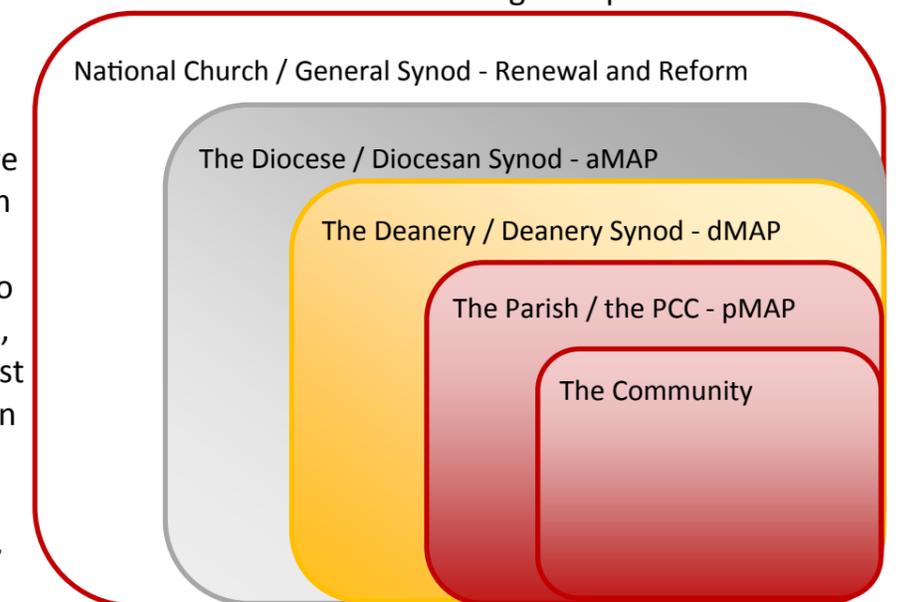
The Bigger Picture

Similar work is happening across the country and at all levels. Nationally, Renewal & Reform is an ambitious programme of work, which seeks to provide a narrative of hope to the Church of England in the 21st century. It is rooted in a sense of Biblical hope and an understanding of Christ's call to us to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into the harvest field.

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out his workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2

Renewal & Reform aims to build on the 3 goals articulated by General Synod in 2010 to: contribute as the national church to the common good; facilitate the growth of the church in numbers and depth of discipleship; re-imagine the church's ministry.

In doing so it looks specifically to address some of the deep-rooted missional challenges facing the Church of England. And it prayerfully hopes to see a growing church as fruit of all these labours, growth understood in its fullest sense. **Renewal & Reform seeks to build on the excellent work already taking place across the church to articulate a hopeful future for our churches and, more particularly, the communities we serve.** But it doesn't seek to duck the serious challenges we face but rather is based on a realistic assessment of where we are and how we might respond. And one of the clear and intended outcomes of this work is to reverse the decline of the Church of England so that we become a growing church, in every region and for every generation; a church open to and for everyone in England, building up the Body of Christ and working for the common good; a confident church, equipping new generations of leaders, ordained and lay, for ministry and mission.



<https://www.churchofengland.org/renewal-reform/about-rr.aspx>

If you have any questions about Deanery Synod or governance in general, please contact the Synod & Parish Support Team: Jayne Tarry on 01962 737348 or jayne.tarry@winchester.anglican.org