

# THE WINCHESTER DEANERY

*Karen receiving her commission  
as Area Dean from Bishop David*



An open letter to members of the Winchester Deanery Synod  
from your new Area Dean, Reverend Karen Kousseff

Dear all

I'm honoured to be your new Area Dean and thank you for all the expressions of support. If you're new to Synod, welcome! Thank you (and all the returning reps) for the part you will play in our shared life as a Deanery over the course of this new triennium.

**Our first task is to revise our Deanery Mission Action Plan, or dMAP for short.** I like this abbreviation because it makes me think of an actual map: that's where you can see where you are, you can see where you want to get to, and you can see the different routes you might take to get there. Each parish represented on Synod has its own way of doing things, its own way of travelling the journey of faith with the people it serves, and we continue to value and treasure that. It's not a Sat Nav - you won't hear a Deanery Voice telling you "At the 3rd Sunday hold a Messy Church"!

**First - how have we got to where we are?** Our current dMAP was a three year plan written and approved by Synod in 2014. It grew out of the four strategic priorities identified and agreed by the Diocesan Synod, and they have not changed. They describe the overall direction in which we and all the deaneries in the Diocese aim to travel, so that together we are as effective as we can be at being church at this time and in each of our places. The archdeaconry MAP, launched in March, now gives us some new 'signposts' in terms of what are the key projects that senior leadership time and resources will work on. Some of these will really help us as we go forward - there will be things to learn about rural mission, major development areas and engaging better with further and higher education.

**Where are we now?** The DMPC has been assessing progress on the objectives set out in 2014 and finding out from the clergy about many good things that have been happening in the parishes since then. We will share this with you as soon as we have completed some analysis of them.

**Where do we go from here?** The key question is: what can best be done at Deanery level to enable our 26 parishes to flourish and be most effective in their local mission? This means identifying the major priorities that will signpost our journey on from here. Thank you to everyone at our Synod meeting on 6th July who engaged with this by identifying where they see the greatest need and value from a list of possible activities that can best be done at Deanery level. If you weren't there please see the table attached and let us know your top three.

**Next, the DMPC will use all this information to shape a revised dMAP.** We will bring the draft to the clergy Chapter meeting on 5th September for discussion, incorporate any comments and present it to you for discussion at the Synod meeting on **28th September**. Please invite your churchwardens to that meeting too.

Using all the feedback from that meeting the DMPC will write a final version and present it at the **February 2018** Synod meeting for your approval. The revised dMAP should then provide some helpful pointers for you as the process of revising the pMAPs begins.

I don't underestimate the challenges ahead but I am excited about our journey together and grateful for so much evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit around the Deanery. Thank you again for your contribution, and please pray for your Deanery leadership team, as we continue to pray for you.

Yours in Christ,  
Karen

*The Revd Karen Kousseff  
Area Dean of Winchester*