

NEWSLETTER



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD

Have you read **your Deanery Plan**? In December, the Bishop approved Stratton Deanery's plan, God's plan, and a plan **we are all called to participate in**.

One critical action that has come out, among others, is to ensure excellent and regular communication with you. This 1st newsletter is a starting point and hopes to provide you with valuable and helpful information, both now and in the future. As well as providing you with some updates it will also provide you with key contacts and ways you can be involved. If you would like to see anything in particular, do get in touch.

GROUP INVITATION - IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE INVOLVED?

One activity that has been happening since January is the meeting of 7 small groups, known affectionately as the Magnificent Seven. More detail overleaf on what they are beginning to discern. One point raised is that not all know that an opportunity exists to be part of any group, so this is an invitation to you. This is still very early, but as a deanery, we need to be represented Deanery-wide. We are one body even though we may operate from different places.

DEANERY IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (DIT)

What makes this different from other plans? The answer is accountability. There are two commitments to support one another to help ensure the plan works. Part of that has been introducing a team of representatives from across the Deanery to help facilitate this plan. This newsletter comes from them in the hope that we can better communicate. If you have questions for the DIT, they can be contacted here:
strattondeanerydit@gmail.com.

GREAT NEWS MISSION ENABLER

We have the go-ahead to appoint a Mission Enabler for the Deanery, The job specification is almost complete, and the role will be advertised soon, so do look out for that. This role will be a great addition for our Deanery. The funding is provided through Grants and will be provided for at least the next three years. Look out for the next newsletter for more information or contact the DIT if you have questions:
strattondeanerydit@gmail.com.

GROUP INVITATION CONTINUED

Seven initial groups try to meet regularly to cover a range of subjects that focus on the plan. These include Prayer, mission to families & young people, what it means to be an outward-looking Church to make Christ known, welcome, International links, Pilgrimage and Governance & buildings.. Here is a snapshot of what they have discerned.

- 1** Prayer - Reflected on different expressions of prayer, including Daily Morning Prayer, Women's Prayer Breakfast, Men's Prayer Breakfast, House group Prayer, What's App Groups, Meditation Group, Taize prayer.
- 2** Families & Children - A survey was sent to all Parish Churches to understand what support can be offered and what activities occur. Has your parish church responded?
- 3** Outward looking - Looking to create a toolkit that supports parishes thinking through what making Christ known looks like where they are and seeks to encourage ideas and thoughts that can be shared.
- 4** Welcome- They are exploring what it means to welcome, and what welcome looks like or could look like.
- 5** International Links - They have been seeking to understand the many connections already in place - Chennai Mission, Vietnamese Church, Mission Direct in Zambia. Lots of connections that we can learn and share.
- 6** Pilgrimage - This group is exploring options and looking at what Pilgrimage means for us here in our context and the Saints that have gone before us.
- 7** Buildings and governance have focused on the demands placed on our buildings, the facilities we share, reviewing the challenges of population v cost, how they are maintained and managed and the challenges that formal responsibility place on church members.

GET INVOLVED

If you want to get involved, contact the DIT, and we can connect you to the group you are interested in. Maybe you have thoughts of your own that you wish to share, or maybe you have questions or concerns. whatever that maybe do get in touch as this is your Deanery

CONTACTS

STRATTONDEANERYDIT@GMAIL.COM.

CALLING ALL PARISHES

It would be really helpful to have a named contact per Parish who help coordinate the distribution of the forthcoming newsletters and also act as a spokesperson to share what is happening in your parish or, indeed you would like to happen. Could that be you? If so please will you contact us at strattondeanerydit@gmail.com

