

Gosport Deanery Plan – May 2018

Embedding our parish activity and deanery plans into the wider vision of Live: Pray: Serve.

Diocesan Synod passed the following resolution in November 2017:

‘This Synod recognises the wonderful variety of mission and worship offered across Portsmouth Diocese and requests each deanery to gather and provide diocesan synod with a report on the existing and proposed plans of the deanery and its parishes that address the challenges of our four ‘Live Pray Serve’ work streams’

As we move forward, we want more intentionally to think and plan about how we Live, Pray, and Serve in parishes, deaneries and as a diocese. The aim is not to follow a strategy as an end in itself, nor to redo existing deanery plans, but to work together so that at all levels we might see the church grow and our impact on our communities deepen.

In order to help us assess what is most needed and what is possible in our own specific contexts, deaneries are now requested to reflect and report on their deanery and parishes’ priorities and plans, and to feed this in through completing and returning a summary of the common themes under each of the 4 streams of Live: Pray: Serve, using the template provided **to be submitted by Friday 25 May for discussion at the June Diocesan Synod.**

This will then increasingly shape how we plan and deploy ministry resources and how we might need in the future to think about extra resourcing for identified key areas of opportunity and challenge.

Deaneries are asked to use the template to help them in their self-reflection and assessment (it will expand to content). Under each of the 4 streams of Live: Pray: Serve, you are asked to identify and reflect on:

- Key activities that are going well at parish or deanery level that could be an encouragement or inspiration to parishes elsewhere;
- Key plans for the future that will make an impact in growing the church in this LPS area; and
- Identify any major activity that will be stopped at parish or deanery because it is not producing growth in this LPS area, or may actually be counterproductive.

Making Disciples who bring Christ to others, consider their vocations and who are equipped to serve the world

Growing Churches to do mission, to build community and resource new and traditional forms of ministry.

Encouraging lifelong learning in schools, colleges and elsewhere

Supporting the transformation of society by clearly articulating faith in the public square

If, for any particular change, help, training or support might be needed from the diocese, there is space to record and submit that on a separate sheet.

Live: Pray: Serve GOSPORT Deanery Plan

Parish: ALVERSTOKE

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	Alverstone Parish Buildings: The church offers five rentable buildings as community space within the parish. In addition to church activities such as three Toddlers Groups, Messy Church, lunch and bereavement groups, Alpha & Discipleship Courses, plus 'one off' hirings - some 50 community, uniformed, pre-school, social action, learning and health groups are hosted.	✓	✓	✓	✓	The buildings are managed by different committees. The five buildings are used between 25% and 75% of their available time. The committees work to increase the proportion of time which the buildings are effectively used. The principal measure will be the time the buildings are effectively used for transformational activity in the community.
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	Maintaining all of the ageing plant is a significant challenge for the future. The Parochial Church Council has a buildings 'mission action plan' which, for some of the plant, seeks greater collaboration in the community alongside a regeneration project which aims to build a new Parish Centre.				✓	For some buildings finding partners will be a significant measure of success whilst a centralised management of the remaining buildings portfolio may allow for the plant to be maintained and let most effectively.
Major things we should consider stopping:	The viability of the five rentable buildings which are themselves in addition to a further four parish sites will always present a challenge. Within the mission action plan the PCC does not hold any building to be 'sacrosanct' if it can no longer fulfil its missional objectives within the parish. In such a context the sale of such buildings may be considered in order to resource the greater mission of the church in the parish.	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	The current management committees have the information about condition, users and budgets such that the community and missional use, plus the projected viability of each of the buildings, is kept under review.

Live: Pray: Serve: Gosport Deanery Plan

Parish: Christ Church

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	Making the elderly feel wanted and included. A particular ministry for us, because around 30 have joined our two churches in the last 2/3 years from other churches where the emphasis on attracting the young has made them feel excluded/unwanted.			√		"Success" is seeing the joy in an elderly person because they feel at home in our church.
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	A deeper relationship with Newtown School. Examples: 1) church members as "reading buddies" 2) children and the elderly being "pen pals" 3) prayer spaces in church that all pupils come to experience.	√				The children saying that Christ Church is a big part of their life at school and beyond.
Major things we should consider stopping:	Trying to measure "success" and "impact". Instead, exploring the theologies of - the way of the cross - sacrificial service - the Kingdom	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	√ It isn't	A document like this not appearing every two or three years(!)

Parish: St Matthew's, Bridgemary & St Thomas the Apostle, Elson

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	Community Engagement 3 Day Events at Christmas – A chance to spread the Gospel in a different way through displays within our churches both religious and secular/tea with Santa/concerts and a Carol Service to round up the 3 days. Family Film Nights - Offering families the full cinema experience with our giant screen, popcorn, hot dogs, chocolate and drinks. All of this at a fraction of what it would cost them to attend the local Cinema. Foodbank – Large monthly contributions to the Fareham & Gosport Basics Bank, to understand more about the work that they do and the impact that they have on the lives of those who use them we took a group of our young people along to help for a session, they learnt about the process from the start of someone coming to the foodbank right through to them leaving with bags of 'shopping'. They also helped to stack the shelves with the donations that we ourselves had taken in and those that had arrived from other sources	√			√	♦ Building of stronger relationships with children, families, and the vulnerable and needy. ♦ Increased attendance at, and awareness of our churches. ♦ Engagement with discipleship and building of new disciples as 'church' becomes the place to be for fun, in times of need as well as for worship and exploration of faith through visual displays and occasional offices i.e. Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings.
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	Prayer Tent We would like to take prayer out into the communities. Inviting all to engage in prayer and in turn with God. Both parishes have numerous schools that we can take prayer into as well as a well-attended weekly Car Boot Sale in Bridgemary and a large department store in Elson. We believe that the whole community both young and old may join in prayer if the opportunity was taken to them rather than	√	√	√		♦ Further invitations/ opportunities for prayer within Schools. ♦ Increased attendance at, and awareness of regular services and 'occasional' offices within our churches. ♦ Building of partnerships with local groups/schools/shops

	<p>them always having to come to church. Through this venture we hope to begin to plant the first fruitful seeds of faith amongst those who live within our communities, so that we pray with them and in turn they pray with us and for us.</p>					
<p>Major things we should consider stopping:</p>	<p>CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)</p> <p>CAMEO was developed some years ago, to encourage regular congregation members to reach out to those who are lonely within our parishes, and to offer them a weekly place to do exactly what its name implies.</p> <p>Over the recent years the attendance at this has really been our own congregation members and occasionally someone just passing by and see the church doors open or staying with congregation members. Whilst this is important for those who attend it no longer fulfils what it was originally set up for.</p> <p>That said a lot of good has come from this group with regarding helping those less fortunate than ourselves (knitting blankets & sending essential items to Syria, making blankets for the neo-natal unit at the local hospital, and joining in with a knitting event at the local Submarine Museum), these are things that could be continued at home or in small gatherings at 'house groups' so that those whose needs are greater than ours do not lose out.</p> <p>This may give us a much-needed opportunity to engage with both young and old within our communities and by the formation of a different group with a different focus/timing – maybe along the lines of coffee and cake aimed at mothers/fathers with young children with either informal or formal worship.</p>	<p>It isn't</p> <p>√</p>	<p>It isn't</p> <p>√</p>	<p>It isn't</p> <p>√</p>	<p>It isn't</p> <p>√</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building of stronger relationships with children/families. • Engagement with discipleship and building of new disciples as 'church' becomes the place to be.

Parish: Forton, Saint John the Evangelist

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	<p>Open Church (A collaboration between the Parish and the local Pioneer Minister)</p> <p>This was started in January 2017 in response to many local people saying they would like to come into Church simply to light a candle or be reflective (rather than participate in established formal worship). From the start, our intention was to respond to that wish and simply offer the space; but also to create something which might be the birthplace of a Fresh Expression. We deliberately sat lightly to any more direct intention than that, so that any FX which did emerge could be shaped by the needs and aspirations of the people, rather than imposed by the Church. Towards the end of 2017, we recognised that Open Church was beginning to operate on two levels: some people just dropped in once (often at a point of need, e.g. after a Bereavement), but others were coming every month, and starting to refer to it as "going to Church."</p> <p>In January 2018, therefore, we have changed the format slightly to include a very short prayer service in the middle of the evening, followed by a chance to eat together. We hope that from this, a new congregation will start to emerge, and that there will be opportunities to deepen discipleship.</p>	✓	✓			<p>Diocesan FX evaluation templates</p> <p>The development of a distinct community / congregation</p> <p>Members engaging with deeper discipleship within the context of the FX – e.g. Bible study, Baptism, Holy Communion</p> <p>The FX moving towards being self-governing and self-financing</p>
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	<p>Coffee Shop</p> <p>The Preschool which currently uses the church hall is intending to move to new premises. This gives us the opportunity to use that space for mission, and hopefully to generate some income for the Parish.</p> <p>Our vision is to open a coffee shop in the hall, employing local adults with learning disabilities who might find it difficult to secure employment elsewhere.</p> <p>We hope that the coffee shop would also give us a space to engage with local people in a more informal way, and support local groups by providing a meeting space (e.g. for craft groups, book clubs or school leadership teams). Having someone on site during the day would also allow us to keep the Church open for anyone who just wants to pop in or light a</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>A coffee shop!</p> <p>Successful "real" employment for adults with LDs</p> <p>A new service or FX reaching unchurched or dechurched people</p> <p>Partnership with other local groups and agencies</p>

	<p>candle – which we already know is a stated need and wish amongst people in our local community.</p> <p>In addition, the café would give us a space to run Parish activities such as Lent groups or seeker courses, for which there is currently no suitable venue in the Parish.</p> <p>We would also like to use the space on Sunday evenings to start a new café-style FX, particularly aimed at young adults.</p> <p>We have already begun to spruce up the space in preparation, and are currently working with Diocesan advisors in Mission and Social Responsibility to help us develop these plans.</p>					Financial sustainability of the business, hopefully in time leading to financial sustainability of the Parish as a whole
	<p>Providing Foundation Governors for our Parish School</p> <p>The Church and School have enjoyed a warm relationship for many years, and recently this has been formalised in the PCC providing a number of Foundation Governors.</p> <p>However, in the last couple of years the nature of Governance has changed significantly, to the point that it is no longer a good fit for the skills of most of our Church members. In addition, some Governors have become increasingly uneasy about the expectation to ‘bludgeon’ rather than support the school staff and leadership, and find this to be an ill fit with their Christian vision and ethics.</p> <p>Although the Vicar will remain an ex officio member of the Governing Body, we are no longer proposing to provide Foundation Governors.</p> <p>Instead, we would like to set up a pastoral team which could be in school to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to staff, children and families.</p>	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	<p>The development of alternative ways of relationship between the Church and School, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pastoral team • opportunities for prayer & liturgy within school <p>stronger relationships with staff, children and families</p>

Live: Pray: Serve: Gosport Deanery Plan

Parish: Holy Trinity

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	Making the elderly feel wanted and included. A particular ministry for us, because around 30 have joined our two churches in the last 2/3 years from other churches where the emphasis on attracting the young has made them feel excluded/unwanted.			√		"Success" is seeing the joy in an elderly person because they feel at home in our church.
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	We have an Honorary Artistic Director, who organises a comprehensive programme of Concerts, organ recitals and art exhibitions that utilize our historic Handel Organ, and the church's wonderful acoustic and light interior. There are always plans to expand the programme, particularly to mark the 300 th anniversary of the organ (2020) and the 325 th anniversary of the church (2021)		√ <i>(helping the church to grow in its self-understanding/inclusiveness)</i>			Does it need to be recorded and evaluated? Art is art.....it has its own intrinsic value. As the church does (or should have...)
Major things we should consider stopping:	Trying to measure "success" and "impact". Instead, exploring the theologies of - the way of the cross - sacrificial service - the Kingdom	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	√ It isn't	A document like this not appearing every two or three years.

Parish: St Faith's, Lee-on-the-Solent

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	Sundays@11 – our new(ish – 2 years) contemporary service, aimed at younger people and families. An average of 50 adults and 20 children attend each week. This service complements our established more traditional services, and is interactive and relatively informal.	x	x	x		Continued development of Sundays@11 – new preschool group starting in May 2018; growth in number of people attending
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	Friends of St Faith's – our Friends scheme needs relaunching, to properly connect with people in our town Welcoming – at present we are looking closely at how we welcome new people, with some training for the Welcome Team planned, as well as a welcome plan going forwards Exploring Christianity course – we are going to use Alpha for the first time in Autumn 2018, and are putting a plan in place to advertise and run this Youth group – new youth group to start in May 2018, for children in school years 6 to 9	x	x	x		New Friends joining the scheme, better connection with them, and greater income to support the upkeep of St Faith's building Welcome plan in place and operational, welcome team training completed Advertising plan completed and acted upon, course runs successfully Group runs most weeks, young people attending and enjoying meeting together
Major things we should consider stopping:	Nothing in this category at present	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	

Parish: LEESLAND PIONEER MINISTRY REPORT

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	Leesland Neighbourhood Church (LNC) began meeting in February 2018. The new church community meets on Sunday evenings between 4:30pm-5:45pm for a meal and a time of worship. LNC currently makes use of St. Faith's Church on Tribe Road.	LNC has grown an exciting ministry walking with those re-finding faith and those with no recent experience of faith.	LNC is a new contextual church community that has developed out of 2 years of deep listening and relationship building.	LNC seeks to create an inter-generational approach to worship via use of creative ways of praying, discussion, Eucharist and familial relationships.	LNC is supporting the great work of the Friends of Leesland Park by working with them in their community 'Volunteer Work Days' on the morning of the last Sunday of the month.	While measures such as attendances and levels of stewardship received are used, the impact of LNC will be measured anecdotally by the impact LNC has in the local community. The weekly discussions that take place as part of our worship are also an informal indicator of how the new church community is engaging with the worship and the journey of faith. We will also seek to evaluate the impact of LNC by reflecting on the way people in the church community participate in the leading of worship, explore vocations, and indeed, hopefully seek out baptism.
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	Leesland Bumblebees Toddler Group has had two trial sessions and will be improved by become a regular feature of the emerging life of LNC.				Locally in Leesland there is a need for baby and toddler groups, a need deepened with the recent closure of the Sure Start Centre at St. Vincent's College.	Hosting a regular, well-attended Toddler group that provides a safe, nurturing environment where children are safe, happy and socialising, and where parents are building relationships and friendships with other attendees.
Major things we should consider stopping:	The Leesland Postcard Project was a helpful and worthwhile project for building relationships in the community, for hearing local stories and for sharing memories. It also created engagement opportunities at Leesland Parkfest and in the local school. After nearly two years it is time to lay the project down.	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	The project never quite developed momentum to work towards a community exhibition or book, and has basically run down to a stop.

Parish: ROWNER PARISH CHURCH

Activities	A brief description ...	In which stream or streams of Live: Pray: Serve does this activity most comfortably sit?				How will you record and evaluate impact? What would 'success' look like?
		Making Disciples	Growing Churches	Encouraging lifelong learning	Supporting the transformation of society	
This is great: Something we are already doing:	We have become the 'God Hub' of the parish, serving not only the Anglican community of faith, but also: Indian Christian Community, Fijian Methodists and the Sunni Muslim Community (who use the Church Hall on Fridays). The Church Centre is very well used during the week, which attracts visitors to the building, but also a healthy income of £12,000 last year. Local Schools also make good use of the church for teaching and assembly work.	Users often enquire about baptism for their children. The schools' winter services often produce new people at mass.		Early Christian teaching in school produces some worshippers as families.	We are active in the community, showing our Christian concern for neighbours and for social issues.	Although the Sunday congregation numbers are not high, the numbers using the Church Centre are high.
This would be even better: Key plans for the future:	Attendance at our children's worship is not good and varies from week to week, with different children each time. We have sought help from Ben Mizen and totally re-vamped Sunday School, having closed it temporarily.			Early Christian teaching alongside adult learning in the main service encourages thought and action.		Our young people are distracted each Sunday by various social and sporting activities.
Major things we should consider stopping:	There has been a tradition of a daily mass in the parish in line with its anglo-catholic ethos. However, the number of people attending has dropped rapidly over recent years, due to deaths and people moving away. Also, the parish is now served by only 1 stipendiary priest, as opposed to its former staff of rector and 2 curates. We have experimented with changing mass times to later in the morning, but this has not resulted in any improvement of attendance of 1 or 2 people. We have therefore abandoned the daily mass, but kept the 11:30 mass on a Thursday, which is well attended.	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	It isn't	The PCC have made no objection to this; numbers at the Thursday mass remain constant at about the 12 level.