

STARTER



WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?

For almost all the journeys we undertake, we need to know where we are going. This is the principle behind **Ministry by Objectives** (MBO) so defined for its application to ministry by management guru, John Adair. In practice it is applied in common sense which, used logically, provides an excellent framework within which deaneries and parishes can examine what they want to do and where they want to go.

In the Synodical Government Measure of 1969 the functions of a Deanery Synod are laid down, including "to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". That is a good, basic 'mission' statement for the Deanery and also for each PCC in relation to mission in the parish. It is a good base for deaneries and parishes to define the purpose of their mission activity and to formulate some aims or long-term objectives for achievement within 3 to 5 years, and some goals or short-term objectives for achievement in 6 to 12 months. Short-term objectives are necessary because of the need to be able to recognise what has been achieved - if we only look 3 to 5 years ahead, it is too far in advance to grasp on its own. The long-term aims provide the framework for the definition and agreement of the 6 to 12 month short-term goals.

Deaneries and parishes must be careful not to set too many objectives and those agreed should be both **realistic and challenging** - realistic in that they must be capable of achievement, but challenging in that real effort is needed, both individually and collectively, to achieve them.

The three areas of activity mentioned above, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, are a useful starter for deaneries and parishes to examine future mission objectives. Here are some example statements of purpose for the activities that can be used to begin the thinking process.

Evangelistic : To invite and attract nominal Christians and those untouched by Christianity to share in Christian faith and life;

Social : To enable the local community to identify its **real** needs;

Ecumenical : To promote the unity of the Church in prayer and action.

Work on the formulation of objectives has been carried out with deaneries and parishes across the country, and if your deanery would like some advice, or you would like to explore the idea, my contact details are given on page 3.

Peter Bates

Deanery Exchange

Charitable Status. The treasurer of Ken-dal DS reports that the synod has a small amount of money invested with CCLA, who challenged them to confirm their charitable status for tax purposes. Eventually HM Revenue and Customs decided that the synod is a charity for tax purposes, and provided a reference number and letter to prove it. If any other synod is challenged they should contact the HMRC Charities Help Line on 08453 020203, with a follow-up letter to Charity Titles Section at St John's House, Bootle.

Seeds in Holy Ground, subtitled *A Workbook for Rural Churches*, is for any parish or deanery group who feel frustrated, in danger of stagnation, or are looking for reassurance that what they are doing as Church in their rural community is good and well worth doing. Reassurance is provided in abundance, but the book goes further, providing challenges and ideas for moving forward. It is colourful and inviting, and points are illustrated by examples from all over the country with case-studies reaching beyond the parochial to a broader vision. There is a healthy emphasis on village community. Priced at £3.99 it is available from the Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwicks CV8 2LZ, tel. 024 7685 3060.

After Sunday Project. Chester-le-Street synod heard that this begins after the dismissal from church, and involves what we do with our faith day-by-day. Do we know what members of our congregation and synod do during the week, who is at the sharp end of life, and what does the church do to help them? Is our faith different inside and outside of church?

The Christian Ecology Link suggests that when buying food we should use our **LOAF** - that is, buy what is : **Locally produced; Organically grown; Animal friendly; and Fairly traded.** **CEL** is a multi-denominational UK Christian organisation for people concerned about the environment - see www.christianecology.org.uk

Aveland and Ness with Stamford considered that the sharing of parish news across the deanery would improve communication and co-operation. It was suggested that parishes should bring copies of their parish magazine to synod to distribute to other parishes, and that a Deanery Page might be prepared for parishes to insert or include in their own magazines. (NB as a magazine editor myself, I always like to see other parish magazines, and welcome the ideas that they bring, Ed.)

Serving the Parish by Martin Dudley and Virginia Rounding is a companion volume to their *Churchwardens: A Survival Guide* and *The Parish Survival Guide* (written for clergy), and aims to show how to make the most of being a PCC member. The book explains the background and history of the PCC, its function, the way it is constructed and its responsibilities to the whole government of the CofE, all presented in a readable and enjoyable way. Published by SPCK at £10.99, with 160 pages in paperback, the book also has some useful appendices.

Farm Facts: 1) of every £1 of food bought by consumers, only 7.5p goes to the farmer, compared with 50p 50 years ago; 2) in Britain, dairy farmers are going out of business faster than ever before because the price paid for their milk is below the cost of production, yet the price to the public continues to rise. Parishes and deaneries can act responsibly in support of the local farming community in several ways : 1) use your local farm shop, box scheme or farmers' market; 2) encourage people to think about the food they buy (both local and Fairtrade); 3) find out more about the Farm Crisis Network (FCN) by visiting www.fcfn.org.uk or telephoning 01788 570866.

Deanery Projects. *Parish and People* and CHDG (Church House Deaneries Group) are still looking for details of reviews, projects, research etc. in your deanery that would be of interest to others - see DX 59, lead item, for more details of suitable subjects. Information please either to Dr Colin Hill, chairman of CHDG at archdeacon.west@carlisle-diocese.org.uk or to Frank Harris, P&P convener, at frank.a.harris@ntlworld.com

Hereford Diocese have organised a series of *Deanery2Diocese* roadshows, providing an opportunity for representatives from each deanery and the diocese to get together and share their work and concerns. PCC members have also been invited.

Multi-parish priests - preachers or platemasters ? Ely Diocese held a special day for 25 clergy with responsibility for multiple parishes, generally four churches or more. They face unique challenges and pressures and certainly need support in their ministry. The major issues that emerged were : 1) how they related to more than one community, especially the villages where they didn't live; 2) the fact that the congregations they served often had severely limited resources; 3) the difficulty in meeting expectations, especially when villages really wanted their own vicar; 4) the difficulties posed by large buildings with small congregations; and 5) amongst all these demands, how could mission be undertaken effectively. Problems were shared, not of course solved, and the consultation and learning process is ongoing.

ICIS - In Christ In Schools - have a vision to provide positive role models to support the message of the Christian faith through creative input into the National Curriculum. They do this by working closely with schools and their staff in the Mansfield area, using a team of locally based young Christian adults to help pupils get a better insight into Christian viewpoints on moral, social and spiritual development. For more information, contact Mark Herd on 01623 661000.

Open for You: the Church, the Visitor and the Gospel, by Paul Bond. Many more people visit churches as tourists than as regular worshippers. Many church guides focus

only on the building's history and visitors may leave with no more idea of the Christian faith than when they arrived. Worse still, they may find the church locked and barred, and what kind of message does that give ? This practical manual encourages us to look at every aspect of the church building and suggests ways of meeting visitors' needs, from ensuring comfort to providing a quiet place for prayer, and making the Christian faith fully accessible. The core of the book is the chapter headed "How to do it - further ideas". Published by Canterbury Press at £14.99.

Best Practice. Paul Bond, the author of *Open for You*, mentioned above, is trying to build a database of best practice concerning the presentation of the gospel to the casual church visitor. If you are interested in this project, or would like to supply relevant information from your parish or deanery Paul can be contacted at paul@openforyou.org.uk

Xchange Youth Weekends, turning youth groups inside out. Exchange brings together two or more groups from different areas to work together in their local communities over the course of two weekends, which may be up to eight months apart. One of the weekends one group hosts, with the other group as helpers, the second weekend is vice-versa. The young people themselves decide what kind of outreach they want to do and whom they want to reach. Through the project the young people engage with their own community and discover something of another community by working with the Link Group, who may have a very different background from their own. For more details contact Capt Gordon Banks, Chichester Diocesan Evangelist at Church House, Hove - tel 01273 425686 or email gordon.banks@diochi.org.uk

Stafford Deanery held a 'cafe-style' meeting to discuss the future of their synod. Nothing new there, but the starters that each group was asked to address and respond to in relation to their own experience of the church locally are a little different from the norm. viz.

- 1) Isn't it a shame that
- 2) Isn't it good that
- 3) Wouldn't it be good if

Information Officers. Every Deanery is supposed to appoint an Information (Communication) Officer, who may be ex-officio on the Standing Committee. .Salisbury Diocese is now discovering how to make best use of us. The Sherborne Area organised a training day, including a session on *How to take Photos and Send them to the Media* and another session on *Writing an Effective Media Release*. Most useful! Others should do it!

Mailing enclosures with this issue

BOOKLET - "Deanery Projects"
by Tug Wilson

BRIEFING - "Lay Chair Training"
by Canon Robin Brown

If you would like to see these ask your rural/area dean or synod sec. To order copies yourself contact:

PARISH & PEOPLE The Old Mill,
Spetsbury BLANDFORD DT11 9DF
Tel - 01258 453939

e-mail PandPeople@tiscali.co.uk
web - www.parishandpeople.org.uk

EDITORIAL MATERIAL should be sent to Peter J Bates, Carslands,
Woodmancote, Henfield, BN5 9SS
Tel & Fax on 01273 493172
email peter@bateshouse.freeserve.co.uk

Please feel free to copy anything from DX and other P&P publications - an acknowledgement would be appreciated.