

Deanery Mapping Exercises

The purpose of a deanery mapping exercise is to identify areas of the deanery that are not being reached with the gospel in an effective way. This might include geographical places, like housing estates or areas cut off by main roads or railways, but also people groups, that might include people with English as a second language, or a demographic that is otherwise missing in local churches. It is in no way a critique of what is going on already, but rather an acknowledgement that if there were more resources, more communities could be reached through the planting of a new worshipping community specifically serving that particular people group.

Deanery mapping exercises involve the whole synod, and this can be followed up with a chapter meeting focusing on the same. The exercise takes about 1-1½ hours finishing with prayer. It is energising, engaging, fun and empowering in exploring what might be possible.

Here are the preparation and process steps involved:

1. You will need a large sheet of photographic backdrop paper (2.7m x 3m). You can obtain lengths of this from photographic suppliers like this one: <http://www.wexphotographic.com/buy-tetenal-super-white-background-paper-roll-2-72-x-11m/p1538567>
2. Please draw the main roads, key landmarks and parks on to the paper using flipchart marker pens. Some people have found blu-tacking the paper on a wall, projecting a google map on the paper and drawing in the main roads is a helpful way of doing this. Below are some photographs that might help you get an idea of what it should look like. This might be great for a curate or church member to oversee.
3. For the exercise on the day, you will need some marker pens, one for each person, first, to draw their churches in (not parish boundaries) and then, any areas of people who are unreached or under-reached e.g. estates, language groups, school communities, night-time economies etc.



4.

5. Spend 10-15 mins explaining the need, with examples of different models of planting (see attached) to whet the appetite for ideas. Then start drawing for 30 mins. Draw people together to speak out the ideas and write them down one side of the map in a list, headed by "Long list of unreached people groups". Do this for 10-15 mins. Finally, spend 10 minutes in 2s & 3s praying over the map mentioning the people groups before God.

6. After the synod, have a group identify the short list to take forward with the deanery, making plans to reach that group through prayer, visiting, and planting new communities amongst them. This is the moment to explore with diocesan missionaries and advisers about potential partners and ideas for taking this to the next stage. The map can continue to be a prayer tool for mission in the deanery.

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