



THE FUNCTIONS OF A DEANERY SYNOD

The Functions of a Deanery Synod are as set out in paragraph 5 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969 viz.

- 1) to consider matters concerning the C of E and to make provision for such matters in relation to their deanery, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest.
- 2) to bring together the views of the parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- 3) to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred to that synod by the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion whenever they are required or consider it appropriate to do so.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEANERY SYNOD MEMBERS

A checklist compiled by Alan Wilson

People serve on Deanery Synods as parish delegates, or as licensed or beneficed clergy or as members of other synodical bodies. Their other work brings its own responsibilities but, as members of the Deanery Synod, they are there to work in collaboration with the Bishop, diocesan officers, other members, rural/area dean and officers of the Deanery to forward the mission of the Church. This involves a commitment to:

1. Live and grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ, sustained by word and sacrament within the fellowship of the worshipping Church;
2. Represent the best interests of the parish on the Deanery Synod, by all means available, including turning up to meetings! Be a point of contact between deanery and parish, participating fully in the life of the PCC, and remembering that a prime purpose of the deanery is to support and enable work in parishes, but not to direct it.
3. Help develop forward looking deanery projects to support the parishes in their local mission and ministry.
4. Collaborate in the development, monitoring and implementation of deanery mission plans, including discerning the appropriate level at which work can most effectively be undertaken.
5. Take an interest in the healthy and effective functioning of sector ministries within the deanery.
6. Elect and support the officers of the deanery, treasurer, lay chair, secretary and Standing Committee, and to contribute to the shaping of deanery synod agendas.
7. Support the mission of the Church by prayer and personal example; to seek out and support good practice in collaboration between parishes and ecumenically. To promote honest and harmonious working relationships throughout the Church in the deanery.
8. Seek out ways of linking into the structures of society within which the deanery is set, including local government. To participate fully in the corporate life of the area in Christ's name, seeking new ways of understanding and communicating with its communities and people.
9. Inform themselves of issues under discussion at diocesan and national levels.
10. Act as electors to diocesan and General Synods.
11. Work to grow cultures of generosity and genuine stewardship within the Church, which honour and develop the gifts and ministry resources of all.
12. Take an interest in relationships which link what is going on locally into the diocese and the world church.