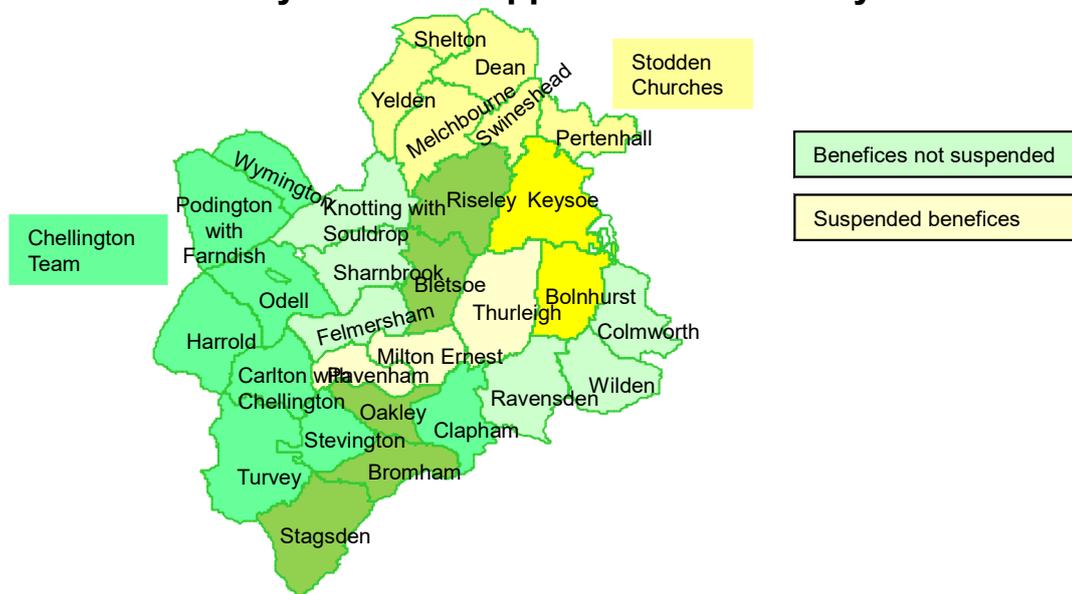


Sharnbrook Deanery Mission Support Plan Summary 2018



Achievements

- The Deanery mission statistics show the greatest number of Fresh Expressions of church in the diocese (the Deanery acknowledges the difficulty in clearly defining what is FX).
- The development of a significant number of social outreach activities, for example in Bolnhurst where the Friends group run regular coffee mornings in the Old Village School.
- Targeted training (e.g. 'Surviving the Interregnum' in 2015 for churchwardens in vacancy)
- The appropriateness of the term 'Support' rather than 'Action' in the title of the Deanery Mission Support Plan

Our aim

- Our overall aim is in line with the Diocese of St Albans Living God's Love Strategic Plan - to see flourishing Christ-centred communities inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to discover God, to grow in their relationship with him and to respond to his transforming love, through serving others.
- To achieve this we will work together across the Deanery to facilitate and support spiritual and numerical growth with imagination and open-mindedness; engaging and encouraging the Parish churches to create collaborative communities by accessing the wide range of available networks and resources. To help us proclaim the Gospel in ways that are relevant, inspiring and compelling.

Our priorities

- improve communications, information-flow and collaborative networks within the Deanery
- After consultation across the Deanery and careful analysis our priorities are to:
- explore ways to reach young people and families, including growing closer links with the local schools and working ecumenically.
 - grow individuals by developing their talents to better equip them for mission and ministry
 - increase accessibility and use of our buildings.

SMART goals

- By the end of 2018 to have enabled all local churches within the Deanery to explore how they communicate and make the Gospel accessible; and improve and extend this by sharing best practice and providing access to a range of available resources.
- By the end of 2019 to have facilitated and supported all local churches to build on and further develop relationships with families and children, by increasing opportunities for more family-friendly worship; strengthening links with schools, head teachers and governors; and actively networking with our ecumenical partners.
- By the end of 2018 to have delivered the training already 'in-the-pipeline', and to have identified ongoing training/development needs in the parishes; communicating effectively what is available locally, within the Diocese or elsewhere.
- By the end of 2019 in partnership with our local churches, to identify opportunities to increase public access and/or use; supporting and enabling discussion and consultation that will maximise the use of our resources.

Challenges and future plans

- helping FX transition into a worshipping community
- challenges and opportunities presented by new housing in the Deanery
- difficulties in reaching out to a commuting population
- challenge in achieving parish share payments, but strong support from Friends groups