

Twenty Frequently Asked Questions

Kerrier Deanery Plan

Services

1 Who will take our services?

The Rural Dean will oversee the team of ordained and lay Local Ministers who, together with Churchwardens, will arrange who takes what services, where and when. The Administrator will help with these arrangements. Obviously, things will have to be planned in advance, and changes won't all happen at once. The move to this style of team ministry will take time to perfect. Meanwhile the priests who are in post will continue to serve us in this way.

2 Will we be able to have the same services as now?

That will depend on what the congregations want, what new things you want to try out and the availability of ordained and lay ministers. For example, if you want to attract new members to your church (and we hope and pray that you will, as this is one of the main thrusts of the plan) then you may want to try having services at times other than on a Sunday - or you may want to experiment with a variety of styles of worship. Currently some of our churches have several services on a Sunday, others only have a service once a month, and we

need to make sure that we cover worshippers across the Deanery.

3 What will happen if we want Eucharistic services every week?

The good news here is that the Bishops have now agreed that we can have Communion by Extension. This means that a suitably trained lay minister, such as a Reader, Churchwarden or a Local Worship Leader, could distribute previously consecrated bread and wine along with a special service, examples of which have now been distributed to clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens. So for those people who benefit from this spiritual food, it will be more freely available than at present in most parishes.

4 Will we be able to have different clergy or will we always have the same person?

We would hope that most churches will want to benefit from the whole of the Kerrier Team Ministry, experiencing different styles, learning from differing views and feeling that we are all part of a much larger congregation.

5 Will we be expected to go to services at other churches?

Not "expected to" but "encouraged". It is hoped that this

will happen gradually - so we become One Body. Sadly some of our congregations are currently very small and one of the things that people have been telling us On the Way is that they appreciate being able to worship in a larger group - that being One Body is important. So we hope that people will travel around a bit more and we will work to find ways of making this easier. For example we would hope to develop a regular Healing Service in the Deanery which would move around from church to church. Similarly Choral Evensong at different churches could mean that those who particularly love that ancient tradition could go and experience it more regularly. It would be good if we celebrated Patronal Festivals around the Deanery, learning about other churches and more about our Celtic heritage.

6 What's going to happen about Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms?

Again the coordination of this will lie with the Kerrier Team Ministry. But it is important to know that if someone wants to get married in a particular church, be baptised in a particular church or have a funeral in a particular church that they will be able to do that as now. We know that many people, even those who never come to church, have a particular affinity with a church and that is good and to be encouraged.

7 Are we all going to be expected to just go to services in Helston?

No. We know that the village churches are so important and not just to the faithful. An essential aspect of the deanery plan is to keep our village churches open and in fact to make them more thriving than they are now.

8 Will all our services become the same?

We have many different traditions and styles of Anglicanism in the Deanery, and we hope that all traditions and styles will be catered for. However, as mentioned in the answers above, if we are to attract different people we need to try out some different things and not be afraid if things don't always work.

Buildings

9 Will some churches have to close?

We hope not. But, in time, we may have to review whether some of our churches are designated differently. For example a particular church that only has a very small congregation could become a Festival Church - only opening for occasional services like Weddings or Funerals rather than having regular services, but it could also be open for visitors and private prayer.

10 Who will be responsible for our buildings?

The churchwardens and PCC of each church, along with the Kerrier Team Ministry. One of the early things we need to do is to develop a Buildings Strategy, so

that how we care for our magnificent buildings will become clearer and easier.

11 What will happen if we suddenly have a problem like a water leak?

Again, the churchwardens and PCC will be responsible on a day to day basis, but hopefully there will be more support and help from the Administrator and from each other.

12 Can we make money by selling off surplus Vicarages?

As patterns of ministry change so the housing that the Diocese needs for clergy changes. In some places more or different houses may be needed, and in other places fewer houses may be needed. The cost of buying and maintaining houses is shared across the Diocese, as is the income when they are rented out or sold. Income from rentals and sales helps to keep MMF down across all parishes; the benefit does not just go to the parish where the sale or rental takes place.

Church Finances

13 Will each church still be responsible for its own finances?

Certainly in the short term the answer to this is “Yes”. However, as with many aspects of this new way of working we may find better ways of doing things collectively and part of the plan is to recruit a part-time finance officer to support us.

14 How are we going to make more money?

There will be a renewed focus on ‘Generous Giving’ by our existing members, and we will develop more convenient and efficient ways for money to be given. But we all know that attracting more regular members to our congregations will help us raise more money. Some of our churches do better than others and so sharing good practice with one another will also help bring in more income.

15 Will the Diocese still support us?

Yes, as part of the plan the Diocese will be providing us with a sizeable grant (around £160k over 5 years) to enable us to recruit leaders to the Kerrier team Ministry. The Diocese will also continue to support us in many other ways such as training, advice and help with specific funding of projects. We will also continue to have curacies which are funded quite separately.

16 Are the Diocese and the Cathedral also making savings?

Yes. Over the past few years they have made significant savings, by for example, moving from Church House to cheaper premises. They are just about to embark on a voluntary redundancy scheme with the aim of saving £250,000 by 2023. Some people think that all the money from the parish share goes to the Cathedral: this is not the case. The funding Truro

Cathedral receives comes directly from the Church Commissioners and not from MMF payments.

Practical/Legal Things

17 Will we still have our own PCC?

In the short term, yes. However, many of our smaller churches are struggling to get people to fill posts such as churchwardens, treasurers etc. so we do need to look at whether, for example, by moving to one benefice we could have one overarching PCC with sub-committees where needed.

18 Could we just have one Safeguarding Officer?

Safeguarding is about loving our neighbour and must be at the heart of what we do and who we are as Christian communities. It would be wrong for the Deanery, or the Diocese, to take shortcuts

And finally . . .

20 What would God make of all this?

While developing this plan, **prayer** has been at the heart of everything. At every step of the way we pray that we are doing the right thing. We do believe that God would want us to refocus

or cut corners in Safeguarding. The Diocese has always been clear that Safeguarding must be kept as a priority, and the right provision must be made at every level of the church.

19 Is this all going to happen at once and if so what is the start date?

No, it will be a gradual process and probably a continuously evolving one. But we do need urgently to get things moving. As a priority, we will be looking to appoint people to posts that enable the process to begin as soon as is feasible. Many of our churches are currently in transition and so we need to give them some certainty.

ourselves on looking after the poor, the socially excluded, our children and young people, the environment and our current as well as future congregations.

Please continue to pray for this process, for those leading it, for the clergy currently in post for whom this is an uncertain time, and for each other.

For more information

Please read the details in the [Kerrier Deanery Plan](#)

5th August 2021

