

Whatever Happened to the Ten-Year Plan?

Well, OK, it is a while since the Havant Pastoral Area Council reported on the plan, but that doesn't mean nothing has been happening. This time last year we presented our First Phase Report to Bishop Philip, who approved it and complimented us on its clarity and forward planning. Since then, we have received from the diocese an updated version of *You Will Be My Witnesses Action Plan* based on the responses from across the diocese to the draft plan sent out for discussion last year. The Action Plan asks us to focus on three areas to develop in order to deliver the plan and move forward the creation of the new parish structures. These are:

1. Building a Christ-Centred Church

Aimed, among other things, at beautifying our liturgy, making our parish communities more welcoming, ensuring churches are open each day for private prayer and worship, encouraging Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in parishes, growing prayer in families and groups, nurturing readers, servers and Eucharistic Ministers, pastoring the sick and infirm, fostering and building programmes such as Alpha, RCIA etc., and promoting catechetical programmes for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, Confirmation, Matrimony, etc., etc. – in short, everything facilitating an authentic encounter with Jesus through his Church.

2. Building a Missionary Church

Aimed at developing a mission plan for the new Parish to go beyond our own borders to embrace the world outside while fostering the growth of leaders to support our programmes of evangelisation, such as Alpha, aimed at taking Jesus and his teaching out to the world: “Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations...” Developing programmes and activities for children and young people to promote their encounter with Jesus: Youth Alpha, Flame, Fanning the Flame, John Bosco camps, the Lourdes pilgrimage, World Youth Day; building Children's liturgy and bringing on young readers, servers and ministers. Engaging in social action and outreach through initiatives to help the homeless, those struggling with poverty, 'pre-loved clothes sales', food bank collection, holiday 'school' meal provision, etc. Enhancing engagement and joint opportunities for

interaction with other Christians and other faiths; greater cooperation with our schools; volunteer ministry in hospitals, prisons and care institutions. Developing an environmental strategy for caring for our common home, energy conservation, recycling, etc.

3. Building a Church of Prudent Stewards

Aimed at managing and coordinating the deployment of available clergy across the new Parish while ensuring the thriving of local faith communities. Coordinating the work of local finance committees towards the formation of a single Parish Financial Administration; developing a budget for the Parish and ensuring the effective resourcing of missionary initiatives. Planning long-term to finance future initiatives and planning appropriate fund-raising to support them. Developing an estate management strategy for the Parish to manage and deploy its property assets for the good of the Parish; reviewing and investing in means of communication, especially websites, newsletters, IT and new technologies, etc. etc.

These are just some of the issues to be considered under these headings; doubtless more will emerge as the plan progresses and unfolds. Each of these categories has been assigned a Lead Coordinator. They are, for the Christ-Centred Church, Mgr Jeremy Garratt; for the Missionary Church, Fr James Lewis; and for the Stewardship Group, Canon Gerard Flynn. These will gather a group of suitably skilled associates to address the issues particular to their area with the intention of developing and growing the activities, qualities and values needed for the Parish to become truly missionary and a place of real, authentic encounter with Jesus for all people, enabling our Parish to become leaven in the world to raise up new disciples for Christ and his Church. If you feel you would have a real skill or expertise to offer to any of the areas above, please do contact the HPAC Secretary, Ms Ellen McCarthy at emccarthy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Watch this space for further updates on the progress of the ten-year plan.