

10 November 2010

Dear Licensed Colleagues,

Please find attached the Deanery diary for next year. You'll notice that there are both lunchtime chapter meetings that are primarily for ordained colleagues and 'Chapter Plus' Evenings which are open to all licensed ministers.

I'm sure that you are aware that all licensed ministers roles are changing in response to the Diocesan Strategy. These changes will be challenging for all us but they are essential for the growth of the church and will also enable us to properly use the gifts of all God's people.

So, in recognition of these changes I have planned two types of chapter meeting. The clergy chapter will continue to meet at lunchtimes primarily for support, prayer and some occasional input. The 'chapter plus' evenings are for **all licensed ministers** including LLMs, self supporting ministers, OLMs and stipendiary ministers. These meetings will have particular focus pertinent to all licensed ministers both lay and ordained. It is hoped that in sharing in these new meetings we will increasingly value one another's ministry and continue to work closely together. I hope that you will be able to make use of these meetings. The topics will be published in advance. More information will be sent out in the New Year.

I'd also like to highlight the day with Steve Hollinghurst on Thursday 10th February. This is open to all licensed ministers (lay and ordained) and will be held at St Stephens Southmead from 9.30 until 4. Rev Steve Hollinghurst is a researcher in 'Evangelism to Post-Christian Culture' employed by Church Army. The day will be focused on how we as Christians can engage, and encourage others to engage, with those who are 'spiritual' but un-churched non-Christians. Steve is an excellent speaker and I commend the day to you, please do put it in your diaries. There will also be a City Deanery Chapter Retreat in May. This is aimed primarily but not exclusively at stipendiary ordained colleagues. More information will follow about both of these events.

This is a challenging and exciting time to be a minister of God in the Church of England and our communities. I pray that each of us will be encouraged and energised by the Holy Spirit as we seek to serve Him together.

Yours

Mat Ineson