Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee

Local Area Mission Partnerships

Introduction

There are a number of tools for recognising and supporting co-operative work between clergy and lay people in a parish or local context in the Diocese of St Albans. These include:

- Group ministry
- Team ministry
- LEP local covenant
- Local Ministry Development Team
- Bishop's Mission Order

Some of these provide a formal structure for collaborative ministry and mutual support. However, there might be other situations where, whilst a team or group might be potentially right, a lighter touch, informal approach can enable and encourage working together in a local context. It is helpful in such contexts to recognise the co-operation that is taking place, so that there is an expectation that it will continue as personnel change. The proposal for Local Area Mission Partnerships (LAMPs) is intended to provide a light-touch scheme to recognise local co-operation for mission.

What is a Local Area Mission Partnership?

A LAMP is a local grouping which may include

- A benefice or benefices; a parish or parishes
- schools
- chaplaincies and/or
- fresh expressions
- Informal ecumenical co-operation

How do LAMPs work?

The members of the partnership will be identified locally and may change over time.

They will make a declaration – the Statement of Intent - to meet and pray for each other regularly and to work together as appropriate in their context.

The Statement of Intent will set out the purpose of the LAMP, its current members and the way the partnership will work. There will be provision for periodic review of the life of the LAMP.

A LAMP may decide to appoint an accompanier or consultant.

A copy of the LAMP Statement of Intent should be sent to the Bishop, Archdeacon and the Diocesan Pastoral Secretary. The Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee will maintain a record of LAMPs and provide guidance for them and for those wishing to establish a new LAMP. A template outlining a LAMP Statement of Intent will be developed.

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