




Wotton Deanery Strategic Pathway Summary


Wotton Deanery's vision is inspired by the image of the vine and vineyard in John 15. We believe that by providing support and structure, through strategically placed post and wires, we can help each parish grow and thrive in its own mission and ministry. We want to encourage fruitful work where it is already happening and work together to strengthen areas that need more support.


By creating a clear framework, encouraging collaboration, and thinking beyond individual parishes, we believe we can build momentum and see growth across the whole deanery. This is supported by a shared culture and set of values, identified through open discussions across the deanery and grouped under five key themes:

 **Together** – We value working across boundaries, communicating well, sharing good news, and listening to every voice, lay and ordained. This goes beyond simple collaboration and calls for a year-round commitment to shared life as chapter, greater chapter, synod, and deanery. It begins with us as a chapter team: for togetherness to become a lived reality, incumbents must be fully committed to it.

 **Local Mission and Ministry** – We recognise that our deanery is large and diverse, and that what works well in one place may not suit another. What we do together at deanery level, and the resources we develop, should therefore equip and release local mission and ministry teams. This reflects our calling as parish churches to nourish and serve our communities. In step with the diocesan LIFE vision, we are committed to seeing this value lived out for all, especially children, young people, and families across our deanery.

 **Abundance** – We believe deeply in a story of grace and growth. While we do not ignore concerns about scarcity, decline, or ongoing maintenance, we do not believe these should define the whole story if we trust in a life-giving God.

 **Sustainability** – We want a strategy and vision that help us build healthy, sustainable practices across our communities for the long term. Alongside exploring sustainable mission and ministry, Wotton Deanery is committed to Eco Church initiatives and to caring for our buildings and communities in ways that honour and protect the wider creation we serve.

 **Bold and Courageous** – We are committed to exploring fresh and imaginative ways to engage our churches and communities, work together, and build for the future.

Together, we are not just envisioning a flourishing future—we are actively building it, one parish at a time.

From these shared conversations, four priority areas emerged, each with actions and activities to help us move towards our goals together. These are:

<p>MISSION & MINISTRY Growing confidence, collaboration and local mission</p> <p>Parish Reviews Turning priorities into clear, practical action in every parish and benefice.</p> <p>Sharing Good News Celebrating what works and spreading effective practice across the deanery.</p> <p>Leadership Teams Across Benefices Building strong, collaborative leadership between ordained, licensed and lay leaders.</p> <p>Local Mission & Ministry Teams Shaping a deanery-wide roadmap for mission, learning, discernment and training</p>	<p>BUILDINGS Unlocking potential and reducing burden</p> <p>Reducing Isolation A deanery-wide forum for advice, support and shared problem-solving.</p> <p>Making the Most of Our Buildings Reimagining church spaces for mission, community and sustainability.</p>
<p>FINANCE Sustainable, collaborative and mission-focused</p> <p>Growing Income Together Supporting parishes and benefices to explore new and existing income streams.</p> <p>Smarter Spending, Lower Costs Working together to simplify systems and improve financial sustainability.</p>	<p>GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION Simple systems that support ministry</p> <p>Communications That Connect A deanery-wide approach that strengthens clarity, sharing and collaboration.</p> <p>Fit for Purpose Governance Aligning structures so they actively enable mission and ministry.</p> <p>Vacancy & Appointment Pathways Supporting thoughtful planning for new and evolving ministries.</p> <p>Supporting Key Post Holders Equipping treasurers, secretaries, lay chairs and new leaders to thrive.</p> <p>Stronger Parish & Benefice Administration Improving training, shared working and support networks.</p>

Our shared priorities and actions are now captured within a DSP project tracker, providing a framework to help us work together, remain accountable, and respond to the changing needs of our churches and communities. As we move forward, we are committed to openness, collaboration, and learning together. The DSP will soon be available on a new deanery webpage, supported by clearer communications and ongoing opportunities for people across the deanery to engage with, contribute to, and shape this shared journey.