

Faith Hope Love: Shaping your plans in Phase 3

Introduction

This briefing note is to help deaneries to shape their plans for Faith Hope Love in Phase 3: the Call to Deaneries.

After meeting with Bishop Christopher in Advent 2012, the Area Deans and Lay Chairs have been invited to work within their Deaneries to explore opportunities for shared ministry and mission at deanery level. This may include working across parishes, and with other Christian communities and institutions in their area. Each Deanery will be finding new ways in which Faith Hope Love can shape its life together, and opening up exciting possibilities for strengthening existing partnerships in mission and forging new ones.

You can use the outline below to design a session to build your vision for this work, and draw up an action plan.

DESIGN AND RUN A SESSION

Outlined below are three steps for designing and running a session:

1. Write a brief for the session
2. Design the session, using the various tools suggested here
3. Resources and information

1. Writing a brief

Working through these questions will help give you a clear idea of what you want to achieve from the session, and also help sort out practicalities.

1.1 Practicalities

- *What's the title for this session? Where? Date & time?*
- *Area Dean & Lay Chair responsible, with contact details*
- *Will you have a facilitator? Perhaps find someone within your congregations who is an experienced facilitator? See below for suggestions for facilitation support in the Diocese. If you decide to have a facilitator, work with them to finalise the brief.*

1.2 Background notes on the session

- *Make a quick note of any key factors about your deanery. For example, how much collaboration goes on at the moment? Are there any key challenges in terms of context, geography etc. Might those challenges help shape what you want to achieve in your session?*

1.3 Purpose of the session

- *What do you hope to achieve? What would success look like?*
- *What are your priorities? For example. Do you want to focus on building links between the different church communities in the deanery? Would you like to find a shared mission project? Or do you want to ask more open questions about the possible options for collaboration?*
- *Do you want to note things that are definitely out of scope?*

1.4 Intended outcomes

- *What tangible / concrete things you want to produce as a result of this session - eg. a statement; a plan; analysis of strengths and weaknesses ...?*
- *What intangible things do you hope will result from this session? How do you want people to feel afterwards – enthusiastic, energised? Are there things you would like people to share by the end of the session – eg. shared vision, shared understanding ...?*
- *What will be different as a result of this session?*

1.5 Participants

- *Who will be at the session? How are they invited?*
- *What information will they get beforehand?*
- *Who is responsible for inviting people, and when can they confirm names and final numbers?*
- *Are there any disabilities / special needs to be aware of in designing and facilitating the session?*

1.6 Risks & mitigation

- *What are the things that may stop us achieving our purpose? What practical steps can we take to mitigate against those risks.*
- *What ground rules – if any – should we establish at the beginning of the session?*
- *Specifically, what issues are likely to come up that are out of scope / can't be addressed in this session. How will we "park" them, and who will be responsible for follow up?*
- *What's your past experience of running sessions like this? What problems have you encountered? What worked well in addressing problems? What did not work so well?*

1.7 Timetable

- *Who is doing what by when?*
- *Agree the role of a facilitator – options include: design session / provide an outline day plan to be sent to participants / deliver session / write up key discussions and decisions / write up plans.*
- *Agree the role of the organiser(s) – options include: secure venue / arrange for room to be set up / organise hospitality / send out invites / compile list of participants / ensure appropriate communication of outputs and outcomes / ensure appropriate follow up to the session*

1.8 More practicalities

- *Room size and seating layout?*
- *Any breakout rooms?*
- *Resources to be discussed (flip charts, screen & laptop, paper, pens)*
- *Hospitality*
- *Access to the venue (note names & mobile numbers of keyholders)*
- *Who will write up the session?*

2. Design a session

One essential tool for any session will be a map of your deanery. Contact Stephen Craven at Trinity House (see section 3) to request a map. Ideally print A3 copies or larger.

Sessions like this usually fall into three main parts:

- Introductions and icebreakers
- Generating ideas & identifying options
- Agreeing actions

2.1 Introductions and icebreakers

Invite people to share something about the local area: where they live in the deanery, and what they value about the local area. Suggestions:

- Ask people to mark their home on the map, and say one thing they love about the area.
- Give people a large pipecleaner (see Section 3 for suppliers) and ask them to make a shape which says something about what they value about the area.
- Invite people to bring an object to the session (can be a picture), which expresses something important to them about the area.

2.2 Generating ideas & identifying options

It is like you will have one of two possible foci:

- Building up links across the church communities in your deanery
- Looking out into the community for opportunities for shared mission or relationship building

2.2.1 Building up links across the church communities

Find ways to share information about the different churches communities, and their strengths and weaknesses. This will need to be done initially in groups made up of representatives of each church community. To do this:

- EITHER. In each “church” group, answer this question: if our church was a mode of transport, what would it be and why? Draw a picture. What are the positives? Where are the challenges?
- OR. Each “church” group has a sheet of A3 divided in half. The top half is titled “Our joys” and the bottom half is titled “Our sorrows”. Working initially on your own, use post-it notes to jot down all the things which are joys about your church community, and all the things which are difficult / missing (our sorrows – one joy or sorrow per post-it). Stick all the post-its¹ up on the sheet and work together to make sense of the issues being raised.
- The “church” groups feed back to the whole group.

Now compare notes about the different church communities, and how they might build links between them. To do this:

- Go into mixed groups, with representatives from the various church communities
- Review what you learned from the last session. What surprised you? What struck you?
- Take it in turns to think about one church community at a time. Ask these questions:
 - What could this church offer to the other churches (skills, facilities, resources of people or time, different perspectives on faith)?
 - What might this church gain from other churches (skills, facilities, resources of people or time, different perspectives on faith)?
 - What can we learn from each other? How can we help each other?
 - You will need to keep notes.
- When you have gone around all the churches, review your discussion. Are there any common themes?
- Identify five headlines about the possibilities for building links between the churches, which you can share with the whole group. Write your headlines up on a flip chart sheet.
- Small groups feed back to the whole group. Display the headlines for the groups around the room.

¹ See Section 3 for suppliers

2.2.2. Looking out into the community: shared mission and building relationships

- Divide into small groups, ideally with a mix of churches represented in each group.
- Each group takes a map of the deanery, and marks on it:
 - Places of worship. The CoE churches, churches of other denominations and centres for other faiths.
 - Places of need. Places in the area where there is acute and obvious need.
 - Places which are currently centres for social action by churches and other agencies.
- Review your map together. Identify five headlines about the possibilities for mission in your area and/or identify five headlines about the possibilities for building relationships with other organisations, denominations, faiths etc. Write your headlines up on a flip chart sheet.
- Small groups feed back to the whole group. Display the headlines for the groups around the room.

2.3 Agreeing actions

- Invite everyone to review the headlines displayed around the room.
- Invite everyone to “vote” on their preferred possibilities. Give everyone 10 sticky dots, and ask them to allocate them to their preferred options (anything from 1 dot on 10 possibilities, 10 dots on 1 option they think is vital).
- From the voting, identify 3-5 priorities.
- Divide into small groups, with each group taking one of the priorities which have been identified.
- In the small groups, “flesh out” the idea. What would this mean in practice? What steps are needed to make this a reality. Draw up an action plan.
- Each group shares the action plan.
- Agree any specific next steps. Agree how this will be written up and taken forward.

3. Resources and information

- There are more ideas for facilitation tools on the Southwark Diocese website: <http://www.southwark.anglican.org/FaithHopeLove/fhl2-shaping>
- In the Diocese, there is an offer of facilitation support from Anne Coates, who trained as a Faith Hope Love facilitator and also brings experience as Lay Chair of Dulwich Deanery. Anne is a freelance journalist, web host and author who often gives "interactive" talks and sessions with schools and groups and radio phone-ins and interviews. She has a wide experience of chairing and leading meetings, and is a member of Diocesan Synod, Bishop's Council and SDBE. Previously she has been chair of governors at a local church school and chair of the management committee of a community nursery. Anne will charge a small fee for facilitation (£60 for a half day, £100 for a full day). She is contactable by email: a.coates1@btinternet.com
- For a map of your deanery, contact Stephen Craven at Trinity House: stephen.craven@southwark.anglican.org / Telephone 020 7939 9457
- Craft pipecleaners for icebreaker. For example, from Baker Ross: <http://www.bakerross.co.uk/product-Pipe-Cleaners-Value-Pack-EV683.htm>
- "Super sticky" post-it notes work well. For example, from Viking: <http://www.viking-direct.co.uk/a/pb/Post-it-Super-Sticky-Notes-Assorted-Ultra-76-x-76-mm/pr=Q24&id=654-12SSUC/>
- "Voting dots", for example from Viking: http://www.viking-direct.co.uk/catalog/catalogSku.do?id=5408811&cm_cat=2000000371

Checklist for materials

- Map(s) of the deanery
- Flip chart paper and pens
- Pads of paper & pens
- Post-it notes
- Blue tack
- Pipe cleaners
- Voting dots