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**The Diocese of**

**Southwark**

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Deanery Leadership Teams

As part of the process that produced ‘Hearts on Fire’, and ultimately ‘Southwark Vision’, a group was convened called the Deanery Advisor Group. This was also given impetus by the Archbishop’s charge to Bishop Christopher at his enthronement to ‘breathe new life into Deaneries.’

The DAG included a variety of Area Deans and Lay Chairs, Bishop Jonathan, Adrian Greenwood and Ruth Martin, our Diocesan Secretary. Their report is well worth a read, and includes news of how other dioceses are moving their deaneries to be agents for mission.

In April 2018 I was appointed as full time Deaneries Development Adviser, to take further the agenda of the DAG. I am an experienced parish priest and former Area Dean. The two main recommendations of the DAG are for Deanery leadership Teams to be formed in each Deanery to take over the functions of the Synod Standing committee, co-opting people as thought appropriate to encourage activities the Deanery level.

Each team would be given a critical friend to support, encourage and reflect how the Team is functioning.

Why new Deanery structure?

* Change from talking shop to place of doing mission
* Change to make decisions at local level with local freedom
* Not one size fits all as we focus on mission
* Go where Spirit is working
* Diocesan Support the Area Deans/ Lay Chairs with grant towards Admin costs
* Bishop Christopher has made it clear that mission activities in Deaneries should not be constrained by synodical structures and processes, but rather that we should all look to create space for the Holy Spirit to stir us with imagination and creativity towards the task of mission in our area.

Duncan Swan

25/6/19