

Turn plans into action

SITTING in the Kairos office, I have had the privilege of seeing the full range of plans our deaneries have prepared.

Many of the ideas (listed on pages 7-10) are enormously exciting and a huge amount of work and thought has gone into developing them.

It all started with the education programme after Easter 2004 before moving on to the research phase, and most recently the planning. God has blessed that work: relationships have developed within and between clusters, and folk throughout the diocese have started to realise the huge potential for doing so much more, if only we work with our neighbours.

Over a year ago at the Kairos roadshows, I remember saying that our plans would be worthless unless we turned them into action. Intentions are good but action is what it's all about.

As I look at the huge array of plans deaneries have presented to involve our church more in the lives of our communities, I can't help wondering just how many will become a reality.

That begs the question: "How do we implement our Kairos

the big issue



Now we've put together our five-year Kairos plans, how do we make sure our enthusiasm turns into action? Kairos manager the Rev Mike Pye considers implementation: the hardest bit

plans?" One answer is to say that if we have developed our plans prayerfully, with well-defined objectives, if we have assessed the resources we'll need and where they are likely to come from, if we've looked at the risks and - where necessary - put strategies in place to cope with them, our God-inspired plans will be our implementation guides.

Remember, in reality, our objectives are statements of faith, statements of what we believe God wants us to do. As we achieve each one we can be sure that God is with us. We can give thanks and gain the confidence boost needed to move on, not only to complete that plan but also to do greater deeds.

Of course deaneries, clusters and parishes are not alone as they

implement their plans. There are many common themes, and our network of diocesan advisers is there to give advice and support.

They tend to see a wider range of situations than most of us and can advise on issues ranging from funding and legal matters to training. Do take advantage of their expertise.

It is also clear from the deanery plans that a lot of training, particularly lay training, will be necessary if we are to be professional in the work we do. This ranges from youth and children's work through to a whole range of pastoral and liturgical training. Can the diocese help here?

This information will be passed to the diocesan structures review group so that the needs of the deaneries are at the forefront when

determining the future shape of the central staff.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, our research has revealed just how much we could be doing and ideas abound. But I must sound a note of caution. In our enthusiasm we must avoid taking on more than is sensible.

Even if projects are shared with other parishes, denominations or with secular authorities, our resources are still limited. Our Lord said: "The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few." We must avoid the temptation to take on too much or we run the risk of failing to do any of God's work properly, bringing the church into disrepute and totally demoralising our labourers who have been battling against the odds.

But if we prioritise, if we only do those things we can resource properly both in terms of finances and people, then we will achieve our objectives and do our Lord's work, our successes will build up our church and secular communities, and we will make a real difference to people's lives.

From what I have seen so far I know that so much can and will be achieved. May God be with you all on your journeys.

Church sail club sees new boat launched

A JUNIOR sailing club run by a Gosport church has launched a new boat.

The laser pico was presented to the St Mary's Junior Sailing Club by the Gosport Rotary Club, which is celebrating its centenary in 2005. It is the ideal style of boat for teaching youngsters how to sail.

The boat was named the 'Len Hayward' and launched by Rotary president Ron Norman. The rector of St Mary's, Alverstoke, the Rev Ted Goodyer, blessed it before its first outing.

Sailing officer Richard Baker-Jones said: "We are keen to get more disadvantaged children from the local area into sail boats. The sense of achievement for some of our young members is considerable."

The St Mary's Junior Sailing Club club was originally formed in the 1960s and re-formed in 2000. It offers sail training to nine to 15-year-olds each weekend through the summer, and is a good example of Kairos thinking to meet community needs.



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