

## Views on Dilloway to be taken into account

THE period of consultation over the Kairos review of our diocesan central structures has now ended.

Hundreds of comments and views from around our diocese will now be taken into account as proposals are drawn up for our diocesan synod to vote on in June.

The Dilloway Report – the report on revamping our central structures produced by the group chaired by Dr Clive Dilloway – had recommended replacing our system of boards and committees with a new

structure to release time and energy for mission. The leaner structure would bring together all central staff into one team, give them more time to support those on the frontline and allow the creation of specialist ‘forums’ of experts for specific tasks.

Because the time for consultation with parishes had been extended, no firm decisions were made at the February meeting of our diocesan synod. But synod members agreed to take full account of the views of those in the parishes and urged

the Bishop’s Council to make recommendations to come before their June meeting.

Initial consultations had thrown up concerns about the representation of deaneries on Bishop’s Council. Synod members heard a revised proposal to ensure that both clergy and laity would be directly elected to the Bishop’s Council by deaneries. Other concerns raised at the diocesan synod included queries about costs, communications, the diocesan registrar and the representation of clergy.

Members of deanery synods, diocesan boards and committees, parishes and individuals had also raised concerns, including queries about sector chaplaincy, the Board of Education merger with Winchester, the role of archdeacons and the DAC case-load.

Other feedback included a welcoming of mission as the primary purpose of the diocese, a suggestion that this was too good to be true and a feeling of liberation at the scrapping of some boards and committees.

## See Noah set sail in our service

A NEW drama group will portray the story of Noah in a Portsmouth service this month.

The group, from St Cuthbert’s Church in Copnor, will perform the family musical drama *Noah and His Family and Other Animals* on April 23 as part of the worship. It will happen at Langstone Junior School, where the congregation is meeting while their church building is being re-developed.

The group was launched by Joyce Waghorn and others who had acted with the NHS Players. Joyce wrote this 20-minute piece herself, after sketches she wrote for Lent last year went down well.

The group is happy to perform at other churches in the diocese with some notice. Contact Joyce on 023-9266 1121 for details.

# Team helps turn plans into reality

**THIS is the team that will help us continue to explore our Kairos visions to meet the needs of our communities.**

Our new Diocesan Kairos Group aims to support and advise parishes as they try to implement plans drawn up as part of our diocese’s Kairos initiative. It will also provide a strategic overview of Kairos plans, link parishes together if they are doing similar things and allocate a small amount of funding to those that apply for it.

Deaneries will also be encouraged to give presentations to the Diocesan Kairos Group on how their Kairos plans are going.

The idea is that parishes should support each other’s visions within existing deanery structures – the Bishop’s Waltham deanery has appointed a specific ‘Kairos officer’ while the Fareham deanery is reserving half its annual deanery synod meetings for Kairos business. The Diocesan Kairos Group can facilitate such things and is ultimately accountable to the Bishop’s Council for the support for the Kairos process.

The group’s chairman, the Ven Trevor Reader, Archdeacon of Portsdown, said: “Some parishes and clusters of parishes will steam on ahead and implement their plans very quickly. Some may run into difficulties. Some may need advice and support from diocesan advisers, colleagues in the same deanery or other parishes that have tried the same thing. Different



**The team: (back, l to r) Neil Pugmire, Trevor Reader, Peter Hancock, David Isaac, Nick Ralph, Bob White; (front) Andrew Robinson, Alex Hughes, Lucy Doherty, Amanda Haggard, Michael Jordan; (not pictured) Anne Faulkner, Karen Schmidt**

plans will run at different speeds. “Hopefully we can help people find the support they need so that their plans can be implemented. The Kairos process produced such a wide range of exciting and ambitious ideas, and we’d like to see them all come to fruition.”

The Kairos process was initiated

by Bishop Kenneth in February 2004 and aimed to revamp our mission and ministry. A total of 277 five-year Kairos plans were drawn up last year as the initial response to what will be an ongoing process.

Those plans aimed to help meet the physical, social and spir-

itual needs of those living in our parishes. They included plans to employ administrators, reorganise clergy deployment, train lay people to evangelise and lead worship, and transform church buildings for community use.

Our February diocesan synod heard about five such plans – a drop-in youth centre in Liss, a community magazine in Calbourne, Shalfleet and Newtown, a youth activities centre in Alverstoke, a community training centre in St John’s Church, Ryde, and training for lay worshippers in Sandown and Ventnor.

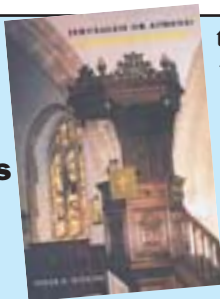
Another aspect of Kairos is the opportunity for deaneries to spend cash that would previously have been spent on clergy stipends on Kairos lay appointments. The second such person – Jennifer Bennett – has been appointed as administrator for the St Mary’s, St George’s and All Saints’ Churches in inner-city Portsmouth.

### REVIEW

#### Jerusalem or Athens by Peter Watkins

THE 40 sermons in *Jerusalem or Athens?* by Peter Watkins, a Reader from Bishop’s Waltham parish, have much to commend them.

They are well-crafted, with interesting and varied references and good illustrations of the themes. As hinted at in the preface, sermons lose some of



their immediacy when written down; while this is the case here, there is also a plus side. While I would not ‘preach’ these sermons as they stand, being in writing they make very useable

background or reference material for my own preparation. Their compact and readable form also makes them suitable as devotional ‘quiet time’ reading.

Sermons, I was told during my own training, should pro-

vide information and inspiration; those presented here appear stronger on the former than the latter.

My natural inclination is for sermons with a more challenging climax. I was also disappointed that the preacher would use an anecdote of someone else introducing Pentecost by singing ‘Happy Birthday’ to the Christian Church, rather than by just doing it himself. But that does not stop me from doing it!

And herein is one of the book’s strengths, which con-

siderably outweigh my personal foibles. For the preacher, there is much here to use, adapt and develop.

The sermons offer clear reference pointers, well-researched background material, concise outlines of themes, appropriate illustrations and some imaginative starting points. The devotional reader will find clear thinking and expression, perceptive teaching and spiritual insight and no little encouragement.

DAVID TAMCKEN  
Reader, Ventnor and Bonchurch