

**Seeking God Together:
A Rule of Life for the Amersham Deanery**

DRAFT: This deanery plan serves as a draft to get us thinking more about a rule of life for our deanery. None of the ideas below are set in stone and there's plenty of scope to incorporate other ideas. At our next Synod meeting, there will space to prayerfully consider our ideas for this rule of life moving forward.

Vision:

Seeking God Together is a shared rule of life for the Amersham Deanery, expressing our conviction that the fruitfulness of our parishes flows from our shared life of prayer.

1. Pastoral & Prayerful Support of Clergy

- Structured pastoral check-ins for clergy.
- Immediate prayer response when clergy face crisis or pressure.

2. Prayer at the Centre of Chapter & Synod

Prayer as the engine of Deanery life.

Clergy Chapter

- Extended, unhurried prayer at the beginning (not squeezed at the end).
- Rotating leadership of prayer to reflect different traditions.
- Annual Quiet Morning
- Space for intercession for one another's churches by name.

Deanery Synod

- Begin with guided prayer around Scripture.
- Pray intentionally for four parishes at each meeting.
- Include testimony: "Where have we seen God at work?" Sharing the difficult bits as well.
- Occasional teaching slot on prayer or discipleship formation.

3. Shared Governance & Administration

- Encourage collaboration rather than duplication.
- Possibly appoint a small working group to encourage resource sharing.

4. Deanery Prayer Rhythm

- Monthly deanery prayer email with focused intercessions.
- Annual printed prayer cycle including:
 - Every parish
 - Clergy and licensed ministers
 - Schools
- Encouraging Clergy/Synod members to be in touch with urgent prayer requests.
- Encourage churches to pray for another named parish each month.

5. Synod as a Space for Discipleship Growth

- Each meeting includes theological or spiritual formation input.
- Invite external speakers occasionally.
- Encourage lay members to grow in confidence in faith and leadership.

6. Additional Ideas:

- Annual Deanery Quiet Day.
- Shared Ascension Day or Pentecost prayer gathering.
- Pairing parishes in "prayer partnerships."
- Focus on the "Seeking God Together" as a rule of life.