

The Oundle Deanery Covenants



A Covenant for Parishes

Each parish in the Oundle Deanery is part of a Deanery-wide Covenant. Its main aims are to:

1. Pray for one another

The Oundle Deanery Prayer Cycle can be used on a daily basis in the parishes and is downloadable from the Deanery website. Prayer needs can be shared at the weekly gathering of the College of Ministers.

2. Develop a shared commitment to nurture and outreach across the Deanery.

We aim to keep each other informed of Nurture and Outreach activities; for example, through shared marriage preparation, the nurture of vocations, churchwarden training, chalice assistant training, leading worship training, the work of the Oundle Churches Youth Association, the Oundle Deanery Schools Support Visitors, the Year 4 Candlemas Service, or through courses such as Alpha and Lent Groups etc. We share this commitment to nurture and outreach with our ecumenical partners.

3. Use Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers, Pastoral Ministers, Evangelists) as a resource to the whole Deanery.

We aim to identify and support vocations to lay and ordained ministry.

4. Encourage communication and trust between parishes and other churches

Events can be published on the Deanery Website, www.oundledeanery.org.uk Help is available to set up web pages for parishes that need it. The Deanery Lay Chair regularly publishes a list of forthcoming dates. Oundle Churches Liaison Group facilitates ecumenical communication.

5. Support parishes unable to pay their Parish Share.

The Standing Committee encourages full payment of the Parish Share. The Deanery paid 100% Deanery Share in 2009 and 2010 by parishes contributing extra money to the deanery fund. Parishes are encouraged to use the support offered by the Diocesan Stewardship Officer.

6. Provide administrative support to enable greater cooperation.

With some assistance from the Diocese, St Peter's Church in Oundle has employed a part-time Administrator. Part of the Administrator's role is to enable the Deanery to function effectively.

This Covenant is not a legally-binding structure but a uniting principle, bringing together the Deanery parishes in common aims. It in no way weakens the central role and importance of the individual parishes, or their independence.

A Covenant for Clergy

In order to avoid the problem of rural isolation the clergy are encouraged to support each other across the Deanery. This provides support and encouragement whilst the clergy continue to be responsible for their own parishes. The agreement to work together is called a Covenant – an informal agreement rather than a legally-binding structure.

In the Oundle Deanery, the benefice partnerships are between Oundle and Barnwell, Thrapston and Aldwinckle, Warmington, Nassington and King's Cliffe.