

The Plan – May 2006

<p>CROOKHORN, DENMEAD, PORTSDOWN, PURBROOK, WATERLOOVILLE</p> <p>(THIS CLUSTER ALSO COMPRISES THE CENTRAL PARTNERSHIP)</p>	1. Growing People.	Tim Fitzgeorge, Pam Gastrell (Crookhorn); Sandra Edwards, Lesley Hunt (Denmead); Andy Minchim, Paul Norton (Portsmouth); Karen Schmidt, Eve Mountain, Val Jeffery (Purbrook); Mike Sheffield, Adina Burton, Margaret Symonds, Winifred Mancz, Richard Spurgeon (Waterlooville)	Marriage Course, led by Crookhorn, held 1 course at Crookhorn last year and another is running at present at Purbrook.
	2. Cluster Organisation and Co-operation.		Joint worship at Pentecost, Harvest and Advent last year and this year Candlemas and Easter so far, with joint services planned for Pentecost, Harvest and Advent. The Cluster clergy are meeting in June to plan a joint Cluster Lent Course for next year.
	3. Liaison with Civic Authority.		3 of the Cluster churches are participating in a scheme with Hampshire Constabulary for the training of new Police students, whereby they will be spending 5 days with the cluster churches getting to know the area. This is a rolling programme.
	4. Provision of Information.		Still in the planning stage.

As a recent Diocesan meeting Andy Minchin, from Christ Church, presented the rationale and thinking behind the cluster plan

At each stage in our work, we have been careful to remember to check that what we are doing is going to achieve the declared KAIROS objectives, the most important of which is to:

“Increase the relevance of the church in the world today”

In our cluster we have conducted in-depth research, followed by detailed analysis of the research information, which has resulted in a set of plans or rather steps towards our final vision ----- in which we imagine a world where we need more and more spaces, resources, energy and support, because we are overwhelmed by the number of people wanting to follow Jesus

You can imagine it for yourselves ----- a promised land, full of happy smiling faces, people who have turned to Christ, people who want to be full members of our church family

Before I start to describe the plans there are two Principles, which underpin the achievement of our vision

Firstly

That we still maintain our existing focus, energy and drive on external and overseas mission - beyond our local boundaries. We need to do this, otherwise we shall not get the support we deserve and need from our church family for our local community plans

Secondly

That our research shows that we have thriving churches and that based on the demographics and significant needs in the cluster we are unanimously of the view that the churches in the cluster should retain full time clergy. That will ensure that we maintain and grow the vision of KAIROS.

As I said earlier, we are not presenting a set of separate plans but embarking on a carefully constructed journey, which step, by step, increases our capability to demonstrate the relevance of our church to the real world in the local community on a day-to-day basis - in a sustainable manner – for the long term.

We have decided to embark on steps 1 to 4 in the first year of our journey because we believe that this is achievable with the resources we already have to hand. These are Plans 1 to 4 in your papers.

Subsequent steps are more difficult and require more time to arrange staff training, additional spaces, and more energy, funding resources and planning. Therefore we shall tackle those plans later.

Now I shall summarise each of the steps 1 to 4 in more detail explaining the benefit of each stage I start from the basis that you have read the material provided and I will elaborate on the rationale or thinking behind the plans and the benefits of each stage.

Note that all of our plans are shared and implemented across the whole cluster.

Plan 1 is about using the strength of our core ministry teams to grow people at all levels so that we have more Christians for our later work, specifically at the level supporting our clergy teams. We need to achieve this step across the whole cluster for the subsequent plans to succeed.

The benefit is that we shall then have more resource available or ‘power to our elbow’ when we roll into the next plans

Plan 2 is to develop cooperation across the cluster on two fronts.

The first is to develop and share worship and ministry experiences in carefully constructed and coordinated plan with increasing pace and vigour

The second is to construct a semi formal model for operating the cluster. This will cover the governance of cluster meetings (currently every six weeks) and social events and will also propose how the formal links will be established with existing bodies such as PCC’s, Deanery Synod and Pastoral Committee, and the various Diocesan Committees.

Without this plan in place and working, we believe that the work of the KAIROS initiative will fizzle out and die at the cluster level.

Plan 3 reflects directly our research findings. We have established that the good work of the local civic community organisations such as the Havant Borough Council and the National Health Service is rather disjoint from the separate activities of our various church groups

The result is a picture of overlap in some cases but more importantly, there are alarming gaps appearing in community care as for example the NHS starts to withdraw services due to lack of funding – the potential for further lack of care for some of our people is most worrying

By working together in the community at the organisational and implementation level the gain is potentially huge. I believe this is truly a case where one and one can make three

Plan 4 In our research we have discovered that we have a number of people who just do not know what to do when they get into difficulty. Where to go for help. Normally, the help they need is available and to hand. Typically, these specific people are completely at a loss and just do not know how to get access to the help they need

This plan delivers the means by which we can connect “lost” people with the service they need in a simple and effective manner

That summarises the plan for year one of our journey

Years two and three plans will follow and will provide solutions to the problems of lack of spaces; support for older people and parents, and lack of transportation.

We also plan to celebrate success regularly within the cluster with “big bang fun events”.

Our vision is that by the time we reach the end of our journey, if not before

We shall look out and see crowds of people trying to join us on our journey of faith.

In fact, we will have, metaphorically speaking, to leave our buildings and work outside because we need more space for those people desperate to get inside!