

APPENDIX 7

Recommendations of the 1973 Luton Deanery Commission

9.31 The following are the Recommendations of the Luton Deanery Commission which reported to the Deanery Synod in 1973.

It is sobering to note how many recommendations were not put into practice and to note the familiarity of some them 31 years later!

- The Parish of East Hyde should belong to the Deanery of Wheathampstead and be served from Harpenden.
- Sharpenhoe should become part of the Parish of Barton, in the Ampthill Deanery.
- Harlington should be incorporated in an adjoining Deanery.
- The Deanery Synod should appoint two of its members to liaise on behalf of the Deanery on new developments in Liturgy and Music.
- With regard to the future development of art and drama, the Deanery Synod should invite the Salisbury Adviser, who is willing, to come to speak to them in the near future at an open meeting.
- Any church in Luton which has enjoyed a successful drama production should be encouraged to take it "on tour".
- The Deanery Synod should press for the appointment of a Diocesan Drama Adviser.
- Education and Training should be treated as a matter of the highest priority by the Synod for many years. Further, at Standing Committee level policies and plans should be developed and co-ordinated to ensure that the majority of the Church in Luton ceases to be ignorant of its role, its faith, and its responsibilities.
- Priests should not serve in isolation in this Deanery.
- The Deanery should press the Diocese to initiate reconsideration at national level of the wider use of the Order of Deacons in the Church.
- The Deanery should pay, through the Synod, for a full time secretary and for an office for the Dean.
- Each group of parishes should review its lay man-power with a view to ensuring that all the Parishes in the group are served and if any resources should and could be made available to other Parishes in the Deanery.
- The Laity in every Parish should be asked to consider those parts of the Report which affect them and should be asked to COMMIT themselves to action to a far greater extent than is now the case.
- The Synod should have, as a priority, a continuing concern for personal involvement and should ask each Parish to report to the Synod's Standing Committee their arrangements for visiting their residents, the number regularly called upon, and the number referred for specialist help.

- The Deanery Synod should have an Industrial Priority, and it is recommended that, through Parishes, they ascertain where individuals of the Body of Christ are practising their faith and that this cure should be shared with the Industrial Chaplains and those with cure of the Commercial Centre of the Town.
- The Synod should have a Committee concerned with Industrial and Commercial Chaplaincy, consisting of Clergy and lay members, which is responsible for overseeing mission to this field generally in the Deanery, and training those who are key figures in it in consultation with the Chaplains to Vauxhall Works and SKF Works and in co-operation with the Methodist Industrial College.
- Two Industrial Chaplains should be appointed, one for Vauxhall Works, who should be full-time with no weekday Parish duties, and the other for SKF Works who should reside in Sundon Park and have parochial duties on that estate.
- A Standing Committee of the Synod should be set up to enquire into the needs of the socially inadequate in Luton and to ensure that the Church arranges for those needs to be met.
- The Pastoral Committee of the Diocese should give an authoritative answer on the future of St. Mary's, Sundon, church building.
- The boundary revision of the Parish of Holy Trinity, Biscot, should be implemented. The area bounded by Culverhouse Road, Austin Road, Kingsdown Avenue, Bushmead Road, Fairford Avenue, Bradgers Hill, Old Bedford Road, Stockingstone Road and Montrose Avenue should be added to St. Andrew's Parish.
- The St. Matthew's, High Town, Scheme should be allowed to proceed, if it can, but if it fails, consideration should be given to redundancy of St. Matthew's church and the sale of its adjacent land for development.
- A temporary reprieve is recommended for the church of All Saints, Luton, but when an opportunity arises new buildings should be provided and the old sites sold for redevelopment. The Parish needs two clergy, and no man should be permitted to work in such a large Parish alone.
- The building of Christ Church, Luton, is unsuitable for retention as a church and there is no justification for spending money on it.
- Regarding the parish boundaries of the Parish of Christ Church, the western part of the Parish from the junction of Kingsway and Dallow Road should go to All Saints Parish.
- Also to pass to All Saints Parish should be the portion of Christ Church between the old goods railway line to Dunstable and the main line from Luton to Bedford.
- The small triangle bounded by the main line, Bedford Road and Cromwell Road of Christ Church Parish should pass to St. Andrew's Parish.
- If it is necessary legally for the incumbent of Christ Church to retain a piece of the Parish to keep the benefice income alive, Inkerman Street should be retained.
- The balance of and the majority of the Parish should pass to St. Saviour's, which has an affinity with Christ Church, together with another Curate.

- Christ Church should be demolished and on its site a building developed which in part could be a Youth Centre, with accommodation for counselling work and the office of the Rural Dean. The rest of the building should be let at commercial rents to provide an income for work of the Church in the Town Centre.
- St. Anne's and St. Francis' should become independent parishes and the Incumbents' stipends should not be found by means of any financial contribution from St. Mary's.
- Not only should St. Francis' become a separate Parish, with the Priest-in-Charge becoming an Incumbent, but funds should be made available (from St. Mary's if need be) for a Curate to be diverted from St. Mary's to St. Francis'.
- Discussions should take place to see if a sharing agreement could be reached with the Methodists of Park Town for their church. The present St. Paul's church could then be made redundant and the site sold to enable the resources of the two churches to be used better.
- The eastern boundary of All Saints, Caddington, parish should align with the Motorway.