

## Guidelines for Deaneries on Implementing THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME

1. All the provisions of the Scheme are in accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993, which stipulates that in the conduct of public business in Wales the English and Welsh languages should be treated on a basis of equality, ‘**so far as is both appropriate in the circumstances and reasonably practicable**’. What is **appropriate** and **reasonably practicable** will vary from deanery to deanery, according to linguistic needs, but the spirit of the Scheme is that all deaneries will do whatever they can through the medium of Welsh.
2. *Deanery conferences and committees* will obviously be arranged according to the linguistic needs of members, but provision should always be made for contributions in Welsh when Welsh is a member’s preferred language.
3. *Advertising and publicity*: Deaneries are encouraged to promote bilingual advertising and publicity.
4. Deaneries are encouraged to set up networks that can offer *linguistic assistance to parishes* where necessary. Consideration should be given to the following areas:
  - (a) Under the Scheme, parishes are required to ensure that *baptism, marriage and funeral services* are available in Welsh for those who ask for them. In some cases, this may mean that assistance will be sought from clergy in the deanery who are conversant with the Welsh language. If a deanery has no such clergy, then assistance will need to be sought from neighbouring deaneries.
  - (b) *External notice boards*: Parishes are required, over a period of five years, to include on their external notice boards at least the name of the Church in Wales, the name of the diocese, the name of the parish and the names of the churches within the parish, in both Welsh and English. It may be that some parishes will ask the deanery for assistance on the proper form and spelling of Welsh place names.
  - (c) *Church services*: Within a deanery there may well be parishes where the number of Welsh-speaking parishioners is too small to justify a regular Welsh-language service. However, it may be appropriate and practicable to hold a Welsh-language service on a deanery level on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis. Deaneries are encouraged to explore this as an opportunity for mission. In areas where there are Welsh-medium schools, there is the possibility of seeking their support.
  - (d) *Special groups*: Provision in Welsh is encouraged for special groups, such as children, prayer groups and Bible study groups. While the linguistic situation within a parish might make such provision impracticable, it may well be possible on a deanery level, e.g. a Welsh-medium deanery Sunday School or Youth Group.
5. *Monitoring*: A questionnaire will be sent annually to the Area Deans in order to monitor the Scheme’s progress. The first report to the Governing Body is due in April 2008.
6. In general, what is expected is that deaneries will review their arrangements and practices in order to extend, in a **positive** and **imaginative** way, the use of the Welsh language in the life of the Province.
7. Further advice is available from the Language Officer, 39 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF119XF, 02920 348263 [gwynnapgwilym@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:gwynnapgwilym@churchinwales.org.uk)

