



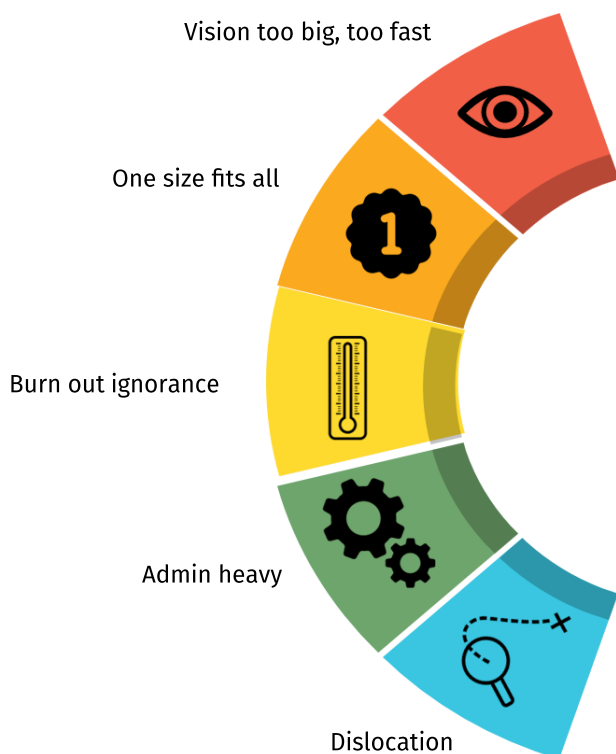
STRATEGIC RURAL DEANS

Part 1

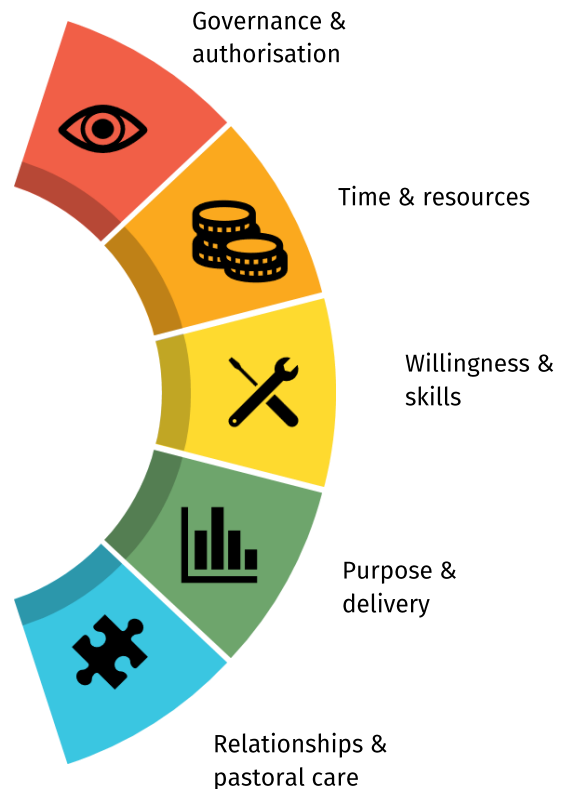
Ten Key Questions for a Rural Dean to Consider

1. How does this role have an impact on society? (Gast, 2022)
2. How do I currently use my time as Rural Dean and what can I do about this?
3. How can I develop the Jethro Principle of shared leadership? (Ex 18:13-27)
4. How clear is my oversight role to myself, deanery colleagues and the diocese?
5. What is best at the local or the trans-local level of mission?
6. Which boundaries are important to maintain, and why?
7. Which boundaries no longer have relevance, and why?
8. What are the guiding principles for the deanery?
9. How do I build trust though encouraging clarity, celebration, generosity and transparency?
10. What's my equivalent of the mule (resource), servant (support/team), spectacles (role), tent (places)?

FIVE MISTAKES



FIVE DEVELOPMENTS





THE ONE TO VISIT

- The **National Deaneries Network** <https://shorturl.at/Eu4Y9> and in particular, their archive of the **Parish and People**, 1949-2013 (offered to the Network in 2013). See QR code.



OTHER RESOURCES (IN DATE ORDER)

- **Deanery Handbook: Diocese of Guildford** (2022). Comprehensive overview of deanery operations emphasising collaborative ministry. [PDF](#).
- **Rural Deans for the 21st Century: A Mule, Servant and Spectacles** (2nd edition) Simon Taylor (2022) Examines evolving responsibilities and leadership of Rural Deans.—on Amazon Kindle <https://shorturl.at/mdKkh>.
- **Rediscovering the ‘Minster Model’**, Nick Spencer (2017). This explores models of parish and deanery life.
- **Parish: An Anglican Theology of Place**, Andrew Rumsey (SCM Press, London). Theological exploration of parish and place, informing deanery identity and practice.
- **Developing Our Deaneries – Diocese of York** (2017). Interim report on deaneries as collaborative local networks. [Church of England Pathways](#).
- **Christianity, Place/Space, and Anthropology**, H Ingie (2016). *Religion*, 46(3), 331-358. Research on evangelical place-making, relevant to local church networks.
- **Poor Models for Deaneries**, D Brooke (2016). [PowerPoint presentation]. Diocese of Durham. Critiques deanery models and explores strategies for empowering leadership. Contact Durham Diocese.
- **Released for Mission: Growing the Rural Church**, J Bell (2015b). GS Misc 1127, Rural Affairs Group of General Synod, London: Archbishops’ Council. Implementation-focused report on revitalizing rural church ministry.
- **The Blessing of Powerlessness**, John Cole. Cole first referenced powerlessness in 2013,. His article argues that Rural Deans’ lack of formal authority is positive as it enables relational and servant leadership, strengthening parish and deanery life.
- **A Handbook for Rural Deans, Assistant Rural Deans, and Lay Chairs** (2012). Diocese of Bath and Wells. Practical guidance on deanery roles and strategic development. [PDF](#).
- **Theology in its Spatial Turn: Space, Place and Built Environments**, S Bergmann (2007). *Religious Compass*, 1(3), 353-379. Examines theology and space, relevant to deanery as a spatial community. DOI: 10.1111/j.1749-8171.2007.00025.x
- **The Diocesan Revival in the Church of England c.1800-1870**, A Burns (1999, Clarendon Press). Historical study of diocesan structures and their revival in 19th-century England.
- **The Role of the Rural Dean**, R Ravenscroft (1998). *Ecclesiastical Law Journal*, 5(22), 42-45. Discusses the legal and practical role of rural deans. This is a link to the extract: [Cambridge DOI](#).
- **Synodical Government in the Church of England: A Review** (GS 1252), The Bridges Report (1997). Chaired by Lord Bridge, reviews Church synodical structures, recommending streamlined bureaucracy and flexible diocesan governance.
- **A Strategy for the Church’s Ministry**, John Tiller (1983). Advisory Council for the Church’s Ministry. Advocates for collaborative, mission-focused structures like deaneries to address clergy shortages and evolving ministry needs.
- **Horae Decanicae Rurales**, William Dancy (1844). London: J.G.F. & J. Rivington. A book of detailed notes on the origin, functions, and evolution of rural deans. It builds on the 1840 book (below).
- **A Letter to the Archdeacon of Sarum on Ruri-Decanal Chapters**, William Dancy (1840). London: James Bohn. This is an early discussion on rural deans, prompted by debates about reviving rural chapters.