

How our new strategy will help parish life

1 | making disciples

WE aren't just interested in getting people to come to church. Our calling is to create disciples, whose whole lives will reflect their faith. So our plans will include:

● Engaging disciples in prayer, worship and study

We'll be encouraging individual and corporate prayer, in churches, homes, schools, colleges and workplaces, modelled by clergy and lay ministers, and resourced through training, mentoring, coaching, retreats and pilgrimages and spiritual direction. How could your parish use these resources to promote prayer?

We'll offer a spiritual rule of life (a common pattern of prayer and study) for disciples of all ages and backgrounds.

Each parish will be encouraged to create new Christian disciples, through offering appropriate worship and teaching for those new to the faith, by nurturing existing believers. Accessible teaching from a range of disciplines will be available, supported by diocesan staff.

● Engaging disciples with the life of the Church

There will be a proactive and

parishes where leadership and teaching skills are developed. Who in your parish might benefit from this?

There will be a lay ministry framework developed to work alongside existing leaders and lay ministers (ie. Readers). This will include lay preachers, pastoral assistants, worship leaders and more.

It will involve your parish identifying those with appropriate skills, offering them training and accountability.

● Engaging disciples in the world

We want to develop discipleship that is engaged in the responsible stewardship of personal, church and society's resources. It encourages a view of faithful stewardship which enhances our entire lives.

There will also be support and encouragement for those Christians setting in the public sphere; this means in families, communities, workplaces, and public life.

It may also be appropriate to raise the profile of public theology through a diocesan School of Mission.



THE challenge facing our diocese is how to reverse a trend of long-term decline in church attendance

There was a drop of 11.5 per cent in the number of people coming to Church of England churches in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight between 2001 and 2011.

It also involves re-thinking our mission in areas where we are weakest; in densely-populated urban and remote areas, developments and where there are large numbers of younger people. We change rapidly to reverse this historic decline and our lack of engagement with younger people.

That's why we've identified these four areas in which our desire to live, pray and serve can be worked out across the diocese: making disciples, growing churches, learning for life, and transforming society. Reallocation of existing resources, and the setting aside of £200,000 of reserves

We will consider and act on our responsibility to demonstrate our stewardship of the earth and the resources that we are given.

For more details of our strategy, see: www.porpoimouth.anglican.org/life/pray/serve



ONE way that we hope to make a real difference in our diocese is by the use of pioneering ministers created brand and new worshipping communities.

Both lay and ordained pioneer ministers will be recruited and deployed to think differently about ministry and mission. One advantage they can have is that by being freed of traditional parish responsibilities, they can focus on new ways of evangelism, creating disciples and engaging in mission.

We have already appointed a new Dean of Pioneer Ministry, Canon Peter Hall, who will lead this team.

It will include three brand new pioneer

ministers, who will serve in the Leasland area of Gosport, the PO9 area of Havant, and the Milton area of Portsmouth.

Two current parish priests, the Revs Comic Sherman and Philip Milks, will continue to offer pioneer-style ministry in the new housing developments at the west of Waterlooville and in Whitley respectively. We are also appointing a curate with pioneer responsibilities in Portsmouth, and have already recruited a pioneer ordained, who will train specifically in this area.

We have asked the Church Commissioners for another £750,000 to support this work. If this bid is successful, more pioneer ministers can be recruited.

3 | Learning for life

WE are a pilgrim people on a journey, and we continue to develop our faith as we mature. This affects our view of adult and children's education:

● Equipping people for lifelong learning as Christians

We want to provide a living encounter with God, involving prayer and service for all learners (not just 'learning about' faith).

● Developing a Christian vision of education

We want to articulate the call from God to engage with both church and community schools and



● Christians contributing to local education

We want to assist in the clear articulation and living out of Christian narratives, ethos and values in schools, colleges and workplaces. We want to support parishes in engaging with toddler groups and pre-schools. And we want to be proactive in developing and encouraging a vocation to teaching, across all ages.

4 | transforming society



WE are called as Christians to help transform our society for the better, by providing an alternative world view, and making a difference in our local communities. So our plans include:

● Promoting the Common Good

We want to support each local church to promote the common good for everyone, drawing in others to this work through social engagement. Our new church communities will include those with a 'social enterprise' model. We want to promote community stability, investing in community life and human relationships, seeking out the lonely and

disability. We need to raise awareness, develop ways of acting, and equip senior staff, dearies and parishes for effective social transformation. We want to enable

ask and tackle the difficult questions, and prophesy about what a just society should look like. We want churches to be trusted partners for open and inclusive debate about public interest, such as environmental concern, urban and rural issues, and community groups in your area to promote discussion about the future of your area?

● **Informing and transforming**
We want to resource and facilitate active specialist advisers to help parishes. We also want to create and sustain effective networks for areas of public interest, such as environmental concern, urban and rural issues, and community groups in your area to promote discussion about the future of your area?

● **Equipping people for social transformation**
We want to enable

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2 | growing churches

WE want all of our churches to grow, numerically and spiritually. We also want congregations to grow in confidence within their communities. So our plans include:

● Churches supported for engagement with the community

There will be a renewed visitation system, including a survey of each parish. This is to help support and challenge parishes, discover what training congregation members need, and to oversee the work of clergy effectively.

We'll provide ways in which parishes can develop a vision for mission, including Mission Action Planning, the Rapid Development Programme, and Leading Your Church Into Growth. Support will be offered to worshipping communities without a church building.

Support for parishes will include helping congregations to write bids and manage projects to develop their buildings and activities, so they can use their space to help their local

communities.

There will be a priority on expanding work with children and young people, and increased awareness of the difference between generations.

And there will be support for parishes to develop excellent communications, written and online, to challenge misconceptions about the Church, and to promote what local churches are offering.

● Ministers trained for engaging with the wider community

We're training our ordinands and Readers through colleges and courses that encourage mission and Christian community engagement. That includes the new Portsmouth Pathway, which provides training rooted in the reality of parish life.

There will be a focus on preaching, teaching, leadership, practical church matters, ministry in schools and colleges and social engagement. And we will help ministers to explain the faith effectively, to a world that has largely

switched off from the Christian message.

● Churches structured and resourced for community engagement

We want to find the right organisation for our churches and parishes that will promote mission. That might involve grouping churches together or working ecumenically to ensure mutual support. In some cases, groups of churches may share a vision, ministry and administration, but have different

approaches to mission. Expressions of church, both within parishes and alongside them, to engage parts of society that are no longer interested in traditional church.

We'll also resource pioneer ministry, from the diocesan mission fund, to create new worshipping communities in hard to reach areas, and young families. And we'll plant new congregations, especially in urban areas, which may in turn plant and resource other churches.



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