



annual report 2015

We're committed to live, pray and serve

ONE important thing that happened during 2015 was the creation of our diocese's new strategic vision.

We agreed to commit ourselves to live, pray and serve: **live** as disciples of Christ, **pray** both individually and as congregations, and **serve** our local neighbourhoods and our world.

To achieve this, our diocesan staff are now geared towards helping parishes, church schools and chaplaincies as they aim to deepen people's discipleship; grow our churches; equip people for lifelong learning; and promote the transformation of society.

These priorities prompted our diocese to move forward in several important ways in 2015.

Pioneer ministry has become an important strand of our work, employing clergy and lay people as ministers devoted specifically to reach those who don't tend to come to church. Their pioneering work may involve finding new ways to pray and worship that may appeal to such people more than traditional church models.

strategic vision

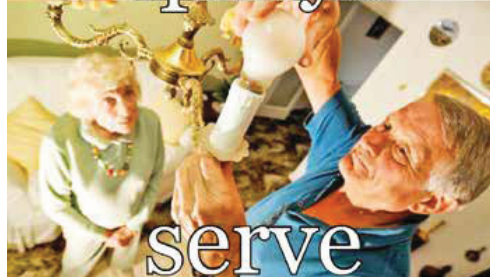
Creating a brand new congregation in the heart of Portsmouth was another development in our mission.

Harbour Church was conceived as a church plant from St Peter's, Brighton, with a young congregation that might appeal specifically to students and other young adults.

During 2015, we asked the national C of E to help fund both the creation of four new pioneer minister posts, and the new Harbour Church. It involved a significant investment from our diocese, which we asked the Church Commissioners to match.

Our strategic vision also fitted in with the national Church's agenda of Reform and Renewal, which was also outlined during 2015.

It includes an emphasis on church growth and discipleship, with strands looking at how we simplify church red tape; how we train our ministers; how we target national Church funding more effectively; how we develop real disciples; and how we promote visionary leadership in the Church.



bishop's foreword

THIS report offers the diocese, synod and wider community a detailed account of the ministry that has been undertaken in 2015 in the diocese with the support and work of our central teams. The quantity and quality of services and support offered to our parishes and people has never been higher.

It records the development and implementation of the 'live, pray, serve' strategic purpose, and among many initiatives I notice, for instance, the response to my charge to invest in deepening lay discipleship and in drawing out and equipping lay leadership.

As always, this report reflects the annual round of statutory governance duties undertaken on all our behalf. This business is conducted professionally and wisely by our skilled administrators. I am aware that the ever changing legal landscape, and related demands this brings, requires a great deal of our staff.

I want to thank all who work and serve within our parishes, chaplaincies and communities, in the deaneries and diocese, for your dedication and commitment to all you do in the service of Christ and the kingdom.

With my prayers for you all and for our shared ministry in God's mission as together we Live, Pray and Serve.

+CHRISTOPHER

