

Our renewed vision inspired by passion for God's kingdom

We're working together on a vision process that is exciting and challenging for us all

If you were to travel in time five years into the future, what might it look like?

We would have been on a journey of transformation, and you'd have arrived at a time when our diocese is thriving and growing in all sorts of ways. What would you see, hear, and feel? Those are the questions that we have been exploring as a diocese over this past year.

Some of the answers that we have heard so far speak passionately about congregations full of committed disciples of Jesus, whose Christian faith inspires everything they do.

They talked about church buildings transformed so they are genuinely the focal point for our communities. And they dreamt of fellow churchgoers vibrantly sharing their faith and finding innovative ways of worshipping God that will connect with others.

This sense of excitement translated into a vision to guide

us for the future, in which we seek to grow in depth, impact, and number. It was a prayerful development of our **Live | Pray | Serve** vision that has guided us since 2016.

To achieve this vision, we discerned the need to put a number of key elements in place. We need visionary leaders who can see the big picture and inspire others to work towards a goal. We'd like to gather teams focussed on mission at parish, deanery and diocesan levels, in which different lay and clergy individuals can offer different skills.

We'd love to see communities of kingdom-building disciples, who are centred on Jesus and can share in his mission of radical inclusion to the wider world. And growth-enabling structures will also be important, existing to serve and resource the frontline of mission.

We invited each of our seven

GROWTH IN DEPTH:

- sharing a prayerful RHYTHM OF LIFE where our Christian faith inspires all our relationships and actions;
- celebrating an IDENTITY IN CHRIST, where we speak of what God has called us to be, and how our vocation fits alongside the calling of others;
- offering a GENEROUS STEWARDSHIP of our time, resources and finances, and appreciation of the gifts and beliefs of others.

Live | Pray | Serve

GROWTH IN IMPACT:

- working towards the repurposing of our buildings in a way that SERVES OUR COMMUNITIES as the top priority, through Foodbanks, community wellbeing or artistic expression;
- creating churches as the focal point of the community, BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER in reconciliation;
- empowering Christians to play a central role in PRESERVING GOD'S CREATION through environmental sustainability.

GROWTH IN NUMBER:

- inspiring Christians to SPEAK ABOUT THEIR FAITH with vibrancy and joy;
- creating FRESH WAYS TO EXPLORE FAITH, through digital communities, pioneering communities and new ways of being church that fit the local context.

KEY ELEMENTS:

In order to achieve this, we'll need to work on four key areas. They are:

- Creating VISIONARY LEADERS at all levels, enabling others to lead and do;
- Creating TEAMS ON A MISSION, with a clear purpose, the right skills and the right resources;
- Creating COMMUNITIES OF KINGDOM-BUILDING DISCIPLES, who will seek to create more disciples, not just churchgoers;
- Ensuring GROWTH-ENABLING STRUCTURES are in place at every level to enable change, serve mission and allow people to take risks.



GROWTH IN DEPTH: Worshippers at St George's, Waterlooville maintain a regular rhythm of prayer and the Eucharist

deaneries to think about this vision at the local level, considering how this could work in each local context. They presented their plans to our

diocese's senior staff in February, and since then we have been having ongoing conversations to work out the best way forward.

Our Bishop's Council considered the original timetable and agreed in June that we should spend longer in consultation and discussion about the best way to achieve our vision.

We are aiming to have some get-togethers in September in deanery or archdeaconry groups at which we'll look at our vision and plans. At these meetings we will also be looking at our

financial context and our ongoing budgets. We want to ensure that we are being good stewards of all that God has given us and using our resources to achieve our vision.

There are many situations where we are already putting some of the thinking behind our vision into practice, some of which are pictured on these pages.

Our parishes are embracing ways in which they can deepen the



GROWTH IN IMPACT: St Mary's Church, Brading, now cares for a flock of sheep in its churchyard as part of its commitment to care for God's planet

discipleship of worshippers, have a bigger impact on their local communities, and enlarge the number of people they engage