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# Strategic Programme Update

## Report to Diocesan Synod

### 1 Summary

Work is well underway on development of the Diocesan vision, strategy, and accompanying SMMI funding bid.

The Diocesan Vision and Strategy is presented for Diocesan Synod to note and affirm.

Diocesan Synod are asked to note the next steps in preparation of the SMMI bid, and the status of current projects.

### 2 Development of Diocesan vision and strategy and SMMI bid

#### 2.1 Diocesan Vision and Strategic Framework

The Diocesan Vision and Strategy is included at Appendix A. The following motion is proposed:

**This Synod takes note and affirms the Diocesan Vision and strategic approach.**

#### 2.2 Next steps in developing the SMMI funding bid

We are on track to submit a funding bid to the SMMI Board for decision on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

A work-in-progress document is attached for information. This is not the finished article, but indicates the direction of travel in developing the SMMI bid and implementation plans.

Key dates are given in the following table.

When	What
18/07/2024	Review emerging bid with national church representative.
Early August tbc	Design reviews with national church representatives
19/8/24	Submit SMMI bid for external review
16/9/24	Submit final bid
31/10/24	Decision on SMMI bid

### 3 Programme summary – current projects

The programme RAG (red amber green) report gives an at-a-glance view of status of each project within the programme. The following chart is based on the project reports as at end of April 2024.

	Project Name & Overall RAG status	Notes
SDF3	Gosport North	Following recruitment of a children and families worker for Bridgemary and Elson, work has started on a number of new services and community initiatives. These look very encouraging for community impact and growth in disciples.
SDF3	Haven Church Gosport	Continued growth at existing services, and some major new services and community initiatives currently being launched. Reaching full church capacity at the 11 a.m. service at Christ Church.
SDF3	Newport	Major building works completed. Team rector appointed – to be licensed September 2024. Amber while mission capacity and plans are being worked out.
SMMI4	Ryde	Project started Jan 2024. Some key appointments made. No agreement reached yet with DAC on removal of pews. Impact on mission plans and timing to be assessed.
Choir Church	To be included in next report	Project starting September 2024 – to be included in next report to Synod. 3 parishes – St Michael’s Paulsgrove, St Mary’s Portsea, St Faith’s Havant.
Flourish	To be included in next report	We have been awarded funding for 4 Flourish pilots with the following school/church partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bay School Sandown – primary, with Christ Church Sandown</li> <li>• The Bay School Sandown – secondary, with Christ Church Sandown</li> <li>• Bembridge Primary School, with Holy Trinity Bembridge</li> <li>• Horndean Primary School with The United Benefice of Catherington &amp; Clanfield</li> </ul>

SDF2 covering work at Harbour Church, St Margarets Southsea, and St Luke’s Southsea, formally closed at the end of March. An external evaluation is being arranged with the national church team

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# APPENDIX A

## Diocesan Vision & Strategic Framework for Rejuvenation

### 1 Our vision for a growing and thriving diocese

The Diocese of Portsmouth longs to be

a rejuvenating community of Jesus-centred, Kingdom-seeking disciples.

As we pursue this, we believe our relationship with God will quicken, we will rejoice in seeing the impact of his love in our life, we will be a blessing for our world, and we will flourish and grow together. This exciting vision combines both 'being' and 'action'. Its pursuit applies to every one of our worshipping communities, and forms our deepest prayer together.

#### Rejuvenating

In serving and bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to our whole community across all age ranges we pray for rejuvenation, for a growing younger, of our church communities. We especially pray that we may help children and young people find their voice now as the church of today and of tomorrow.

#### Community

Our diocese is a community of communities. It is comprised of deaneries, parishes, schools, and chaplaincies where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12v27, calls God's people "*the body of Christ, and each person a member of it*". He speaks about unity and diversity, mutuality and service, honour and care for each other. We are a big tent, and if God has made us one, then it is our privilege to reflect that in our life together.

#### Jesus-centred

We long to be learners and followers of Jesus, with our life and values and purpose centred on him. Jesus said, in John 15v4, "*Abide in me and I will abide in you*". This command to remain in Jesus carries with it the sense of our life being centred on the person of Jesus who shapes our actions through his living presence. Jesus continued "*... those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing*". Therefore, **abiding in Jesus is the fundamental precursor to fruitful ministry**. So our first priority, is to deepen our life in God, to grasp how wide

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and long and high and deep is the love of Christ for us personally, and to live our life in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

### Kingdom-seeking

Jesus taught us to pray "*your Kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven*". The expression of the reign of God is seen in how we evidence our love for God (up), our love for others (out), our love for God's world (down), our love each other (in). This 360°, holistic approach to God's kingdom and reign, encompasses our devotion to God, our passion for social justice, our care for creation, and fellowship with each other. Jesus has commissioned his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, and therefore the church exists not to serve itself but to serve God and others. What this might look like, and how it might be evidenced in each of our diverse communities will be different. But we want everything we do, **to make a way for God's Kingdom to grow.**

### Disciples

Life in Christ is a continual becoming: becoming more like Jesus, becoming better fitted for love and service in our communities, becoming our true selves within God's love and grace. Disciples are those who live life in union with God in Christ, and who practice contemplation of his nature and participation in his work in the world.

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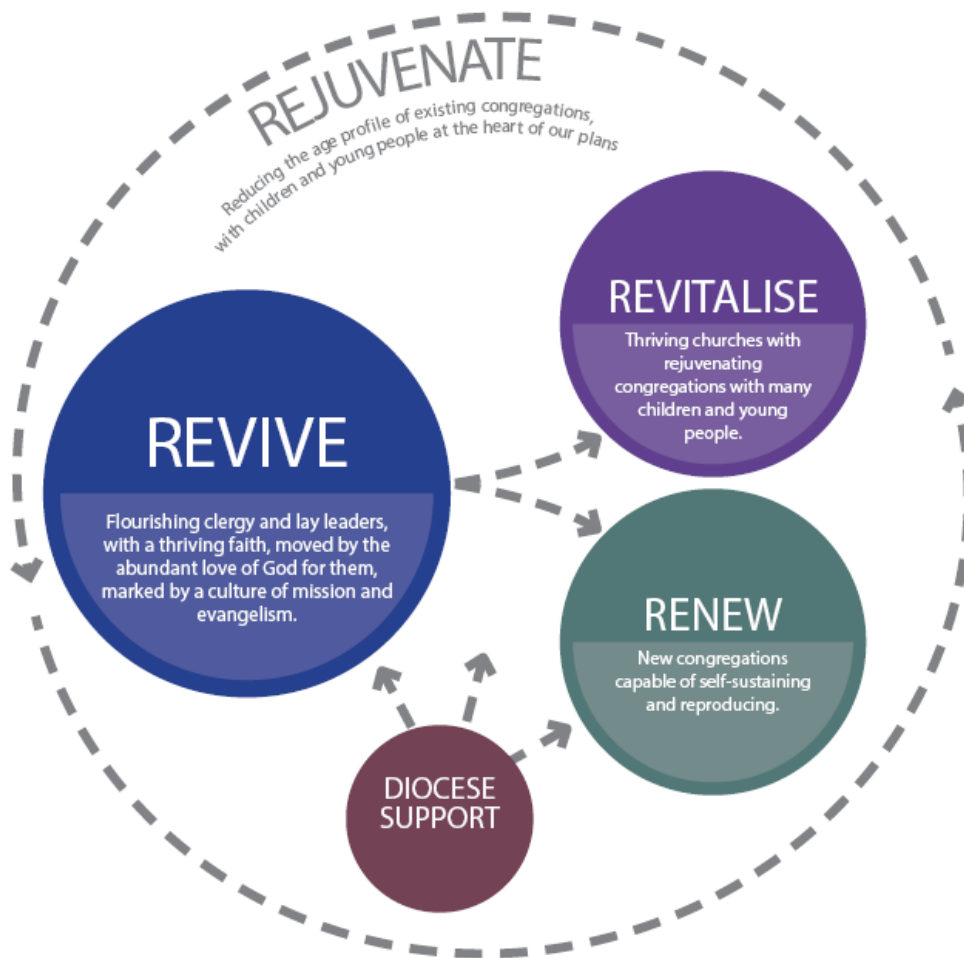
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## 2 Our strategic approach

If our vision answers the question “who do we want to be” with the response: a rejuvenating community of Jesus-centred, Kingdom-seeking disciples. Then our strategy aims to answer the question, “what does God call us to do” to meet our challenges?

Our overall strategy works together as shown:



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## 2.1 Rejuvenate (including children and young people)

From our context we can see that **rejuvenating** the church is our top priority. This will involve not only progressively reducing the age-profile of our congregations, but where possible, creating worshipping communities that include children and young people.

Therefore for children and young people to be at the heart of our ministry, we want to:

- **revive** and **revitalise** our existing churches, whatever the tradition, so that they become attractive and engaging places for all age-ranges in our community.
- **renew** local ministry through church plants with an emphasis on children and youth and create new worshipping communities in partnership between churches and schools

## 2.2 Revive, Revitalise, Renew

We long for God to revive, revitalise and renew our life in him together, so that we can love and serve the world for his glory.

### 2.2.1 Revive – a personal refreshing of the wonder of God’s presence in our life.

We want to develop an ever increasing culture of holy desire for God personally and together. We want to encourage all our church leadership to be more and more: available to God, surrendered to his will, seeking Jesus, and expecting his Spirit to deepen and empower our faith. If we ourselves do not experience the dynamic of a personal relationship with God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, then we have very little to say to a world in need. So the first part of our strategy is a call to deeper prayer for all our clergy and lay leadership to experience a continued personal refreshing of the wonder of God’s presence in our life.

Paul’s concern for the Ephesian church was that *“God would ...out of his glorious riches, strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”*. Eph 3:16-18

### 2.2.2 Revitalise – Foundations and Pathways to Discipleship

We believe that discipleship is a journey with God that takes people from where they are, into deeper fellowship with him, and his people, the church. God uses his church to reach a lost world and bring people into his Kingdom. Therefore, we want our culture and our ministries to connect

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together to form a pathway that reaches people who are unconnected with church, and supports them as they journey from the fringe, into the congregation, to become committed disciples who own for themselves Jesus' mission.

*"I dream of a 'missionary option,' that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more mission oriented..."* (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 27).

We want to engage with our world in loving words and actions by challenging injustice and promoting the common good. We want people to experience compassionate fellowship, worship that leads us into God's presence, teaching that inspires our faith, and the ability to be a part of something that makes a difference.

Thus we pray for every person in our diocese to have access to an enriching and compelling community of faith that seeks to express the life of the church in all its fullness like this. We see the church growing and making disciples of Jesus through its life of:

- social justice and evangelism,
- pastoral care and fellowship,
- worship and prayer,
- teaching and preaching,
- service and giving.

These 5 pairs of foundation stones can connect together in a pathway that seeks to Engage, Evangelise Establish, and Equip our church to be disciples who make disciples.

### 2.2.3 Renew – Pioneering, Planting and Transplanting Congregations

In communities where there is no effective church presence, we believe it is right to plant/transplant new congregations to focus on outreach and younger generations. Church plants can be clergy-led or lay-led, and can be from any church tradition.

Church planting at its simplest means starting a new worshipping community expressed as any variation within our mixed ecology. Church planting is nothing new – all of our current churches were once "plants". There are two different models of church planting :

- Intra-parish planting – the parish church plants a new community in e.g new housing development, another church building, an estate, a school, a café.
- From outside the parish – where a church is struggling, a new leader and team from elsewhere can help revitalise the parish.

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