

Our vision is for all of our church communities to flourish. For individuals and church communities to feel equipped and able to reach out to new people and help them become disciples in their church community.

Starting fresh expressions in an existing church community

We recognise that for many our current style and approach to church may not meet their needs or preferences. We have found that by changing our approaches and adapting our styles we have increased our ability to reach out to those who have never attended church before. By creating fresh expressions of church we can reach even more people for Christ.

Our vision is to reach out to those who feel that they struggle to relate to existing forms of church. For church communities to feel confident and able to start and run new fresh expressions of church that are more easily accessible to those with little or no church background.

Planting a new church community

We recognise that in some areas there may not be the resources or the people to start a new expression of church in the community. In these situations we will work with other parishes and outside organisations to plant a new church community. Planting a new church community can sometimes be the most effective way to reach more people.

Our vision is for there to be an expression of church in every community that is easy for people to engage with. As part of this vision we recognise that in some places we will need to plant a new church community to achieve this.

In your context how will you seek to grow in number?



live | pray | serve

Values

An essential part of our vision is not just deciding what we are going to do but how we are going to do it.

Our culture defines the way that we go about fulfilling our vision and mission as a diocese.



Our culture can be described in five words:

- Courageous
- Resourceful
- Generous
- Collaborative
- Pioneering

Courageous

We are bold and obedient in our actions, willing to make costly decisions that we and others have shied away from in the past, and not just for the sake of those left within our churches but for those who might never consider entering them.

Resourceful

We will be good stewards who see that God gives us what is sufficient to do his work, who make the most of what we have, and who respond wholeheartedly to opportunities for mission when they arise.

Generous

We share our time, money, and other resources with those who have least, being patient and supportive as communities discover and

Take care of the created world

We accept the responsibility to care for the created world that God has given us. In all that we do we understand the need to think about the environment and, in the context of climate change, appreciate the need to act now to safeguard the world of tomorrow.

Our vision is that through prayer and action we will reduce the negative impact we have been having on the environment. We will equip individuals and church communities to be able to take positive steps to improve the environment.

In your context how will you seek to have an impact in these areas?

Number

Our vision is for all churches and styles of church to be flourishing throughout the diocese. We want the diocese to have an increasing number of new disciples each year, and for regular attendance in church to be rising.



There are many ways to make new disciples. Each parish will need to develop their own plan with support from the diocese. However, there are three areas that we will be focussing on.

New people joining an existing church community

We are aware that, for all styles and traditions of church to flourish, all churches need to engage in reaching out to new people to join their congregations. We want each parish to recognise the value of their own identity and use it to reach those in their communities who would best respond to this.

community we can care for those around us.

There are many ways in which we can show love for our neighbours, and it will differ for each of us in our own contexts. However, there are three areas that we want to particularly focus on.



Take a stand against poverty and inequality

Through prayer and action we aim to address both the causes and effects of poverty and inequality, whether it comes in the form of food poverty, poverty of health, lack of housing or through the perceived lack of choice that many in society feel that they have. We will strive to bring fullness of life to all, for, as Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Our vision is that through our prayer and action we will reduce the effect that poverty and inequality have on the individuals and families within our diocese. We will also actively combat the things that cause poverty and inequality in the first place.

Take our place as global citizens

We recognise that we live in a global society and that our neighbour is no longer just the person that lives on our street. As with the Good Samaritan, we often have little in common with our neighbours but we are called to love them nonetheless.

Our vision is that through our prayers and actions we will ensure that what we say and what we do reflects our respect and love for all cultures and all people. We will demonstrate as much care for those least like us as those most similar, whether in this country or in other parts of the world.

offer their own gifts, consciously and prayerfully allowing our resources to follow what we believe God is asking us to do in mission.

Collaborative

We will reform our structures so that people are better able to work together, across parishes, deaneries, ecumenically, and throughout the diocese, because we believe that we are one body with many parts all working in the service of God.

Pioneering

We follow the first disciples after Pentecost, considering with fresh and transformed eyes what God is asking us to do to reach others with the good news of Christ, being creative, taking risks and sometimes failing, being willing to let go of the habits which hinder us, and all this in the spirit of trust in the resurrection.

Vision

Our diocesan vision is that we each live a life where we are full of faith. As such, our diocesan vision is formed around three key commitments:

- to live,
- to pray,
- and to serve.

Through these commitments we want our diocese to grow in depth, impact and number:

- To grow in **depth** is to grow in love for God;
- To grow in **impact** is to grow in love for our neighbours;
- To grow in **number** is to make new disciples of Jesus Christ.

Live

We are called to **live** our lives in ways that are formed by Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and coming again.

We are sent out into the world to **live** and to tell the Good News of God in Jesus Christ, and to be and to make new disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pray

We are called to **pray**, on our own and together in community, following the practices of daily life and worship that have shaped Christians through the ages.

We are to seek God's will in **prayer** and to hold each other's needs and the needs of our world on our hearts before God.

Serve

We are called to love and **serve** the people among whom we live and work, caring for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor.

Speaking prophetically, we are also to seek the kingdom of God among us, and to act as its **servants** in upholding truth and justice.

Depth

Our vision is that everyone will be able to explore and grow in fellowship and discipleship; explore their own sense of vocation and calling; work out what good stewardship looks like in their life and the life of their parish, school and community.



There are many ways in which we can grow in our love for God and the journey we each take as disciples can look very different. However, there are three areas that we want to focus on.

Nuture our personal and collective faith

We will enable and encourage people to explore their own faith

and continue on their journeys as disciples of Jesus Christ. We will help them to strengthen their prayer life, to experience inspiring and thought-provoking worship and in learning to use scriptures to encourage and guide them as they seek to live out their faith each and every day.

Our vision is that everyone will feel able to nurture their own faith through prayer, worship and exploring the Bible, both on their own and also in fellowship with other Christians.

Respond to our calling and vocation

We will support people as they explore their own identity, help them figure out their gifting and how they can serve God in their own situation. We will offer further support for those that wish to examine their individual calling to ministry and vocation, whether lay or ordained, whether stipendiary or self-supporting.

Our vision is that everyone will be able to recognise and fulfil God's individual calling and vocation in their life.

Be good stewards of all God has given us

We will assist people and church communities to look at how they use their time, money and resources.

Our vision is that individuals and churches will do all that they can to be good stewards of all that we have and all that we are given.

In your context how will you seek to grow in depth in these ways?

Impact

Our vision is that God's love may be evident in all that we do in loving our neighbours, so that in every place, parish and