

Our Emerging Strategy

Autumn 2024

Our Transformation Programme

In recent years we have made good progress with our Transformation Programme.

Many of us have experienced first-hand how things are changing for the better across the diocese in our parishes, schools and chaplaincies.

This is helping us achieve our vision to be a **worshipping, growing, transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community**

and work towards our mission goals which are to **grow** our churches, **nurture** new and existing disciples, and **serve** the vulnerable, deprived and excluded.

Our Progress

Our achievements include:

- moving to our new deanery structures;
- the creation of our 33 mission communities;
- investing in our lay leaders;
- supporting children's ministry in each deanery;
- and increasing the practical support for parishes.

Most of these changes have focused on new ways of working together which are becoming embedded in the life of our diocese.

Building on these successes, we are shifting to the next level in setting our priorities and working out what we want to achieve next.



Missional priorities

We are shifting our focus from **capacity and structural changes** to our **key themes** of:

- Growing Younger
- Church Planting and Revitalisation
- Developing Missional Leaders
- Parish Renewal

Given the excellent start that has been made, we now have the opportunity to be even more **creative** and **ambitious** with our plans for the future.

We would like your help in shaping these plans.



Growing Younger

We have been doing great work in this area, exploring new approaches with the Children Changing Places programme in Bolton, and Man-Dio Growing Faith in the other deaneries.

We are now combining this experience and learning to develop a comprehensive approach to **engaging with children, young people, and their families.**

Our focus is on strengthening the links between **our parishes and our church schools.**



Church Planting and Revitalisation

We have had similar successes with **church planting and revitalisation**.

Over the last seven years, we have set up four new resource churches and more than ten church plants.

We now want to build on this learning and establish churches carrying a **DNA of mission** across our diocese, particularly in communities where attendance is low.



Developing Missional Leaders

We are **investing in our clergy** so they are equipped to grow our churches, especially given the number of newly ordained clergy who are being appointed to stipendiary roles.

We are **developing our lay people**, particularly through our Authorised Lay Ministry programme. We have also been taking forward our proposals for focal ministry.

We are supporting **clergy and lay vocations** so we develop a new, diverse generation of church leaders with the calling and skills to grow new faith communities.



Parish Renewal

We are providing direct support to our parishes to ensure they are **missionally renewal** and their **financially sustainable**.

Our Area Deans and Lay Chairs are working closely with our parishes, ensuring they have access to the **support** they need.

Mission communities are enabling parishes to **work together** on mission and ministry. Clergy deployment, parochial reorganisation and supporting our most fragile churches are important.



Racial Justice, Net Zero Carbon and Safeguarding

Supporting our international congregations is key to achieving **racial justice**, as is ensuring that governance, clergy and lay roles are representative of the diversity of our diocese.

Together we are continuing our work towards achieving **Net Zero Carbon**. Our parishes and schools are measuring their energy use and taking simple, practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint.

We continue to provide a safe environment for all by promoting effective **safeguarding**.



Bid to the Church Commissioners

Over the next 18 months we aim to:

- build confidence, enthusiasm and engagement across the diocese for the next phase;
- work out our proposals for each of our four priority areas;
- and develop the missional design, implementation and resourcing plans which will underpin the bid.

Please let us know your thoughts on this emerging strategy ahead of an extensive stakeholder engagement exercise over the autumn, and the preparation of a bid for funding to the Church Commissioners for submission in December 2025.

Shaping Future Plans

We are working on **creative** and **ambitious** plans for the future and would like your help in shaping them.

- God is calling us to go out and make disciples – what inspires you most about our emerging strategy?
- As the gospel of Jesus is proclaimed afresh in our generation, how would you like to see your parish develop in the light of our emerging strategy?

Film explaining Our Emerging Strategy

