

Our vision is for Manchester Diocese to be a worshipping, growing, transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community. There is so much good work already underway across parishes, schools, chaplaincies and other networks, and much to be encouraged about. Manchester is a wonderful place to engage in Gospel Ministry.

Over the last year extensive work has been carried out to shape a strategy to serve this vision. Through prayer, discussion, consultation and collaboration we have identified four key themes to guide our mission and ministry. The recent award of significant additional funding from the national church as part of the Diocesan Investment Programme is also supporting us develop this further.

Watch our update films - and more resources for Sunday services, small groups etc - on our website at www.manchester.anglican.org

Four Themes



Parish Renewal - Parishes lie at the heart of our vision for the growth and transformation of our diocese.



Growing Younger - Our aim is to double the number of young active disciples and ensure there is a flourishing children and young people's ministry within reach of every young person.



Church Planting and Revitalisation - Having set up a number of Resource Churches in recent years, we are accelerating and strengthening our approach to church planting across the diocese.



Developing Missional Leaders - Our focus is on developing ordained and lay people who are representative of the diversity of our diocese. We want them to be confident and equipped to lead our churches.

These priorities are underpinned by our work to:

- Support people of Global Majority Heritage, promote racial justice and ensure that our clergy and lay leaders represent the diversity of our diocese.
- Achieve the Church of England's 2030 Net Zero Carbon goal by helping our churches and schools measure their energy use and take practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint.
- Provide a safer environment for all by ensuring effective safeguarding.
- Recognise the importance of nurturing people from different traditions of church, learning together and listening to God.

Questions for Reflection

- Our vision as a Diocese is to be a “worshipping, growing, transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community.” As a PCC reflect prayerfully on each part of this vision:

Worshipping - how does worship shape who we are and how we live?

Growing - where do we see growth in faith, discipleship, or numbers? Where might growth be needed?

Transforming - how are our own lives, and our wider community, being changed through our presence?

Christian presence - what does it look like for our church to be visible, faithful, and rooted locally?

- What excites you about the four themes within our strategy? How do these connect with what is already taking place locally?
- Where within these four themes do you feel you have strengths? Are there encouraging stories you can share with others, or be grateful to God for?
- What might be difficult or challenging as you look ahead? What support, partnerships, or encouragement might you need from others?

Next Steps

As a PCC, you may find it helpful to identify a small number of practical next steps flowing from this reflection. These might include:

Shaping PCC agendas more intentionally around mission and vision

Consider how PCC agendas are structured. Are space and time regularly given to prayer, discernment, and conversation about worship, discipleship, and the life of your community? You may wish to review how agendas help you keep God’s mission at the centre of your discussions and decisions.

Identifying one clear missional priority to focus on

From your reflections, agree one or two areas of focus for the coming year. This does not need to be new or complex – it may involve doing something more intentionally, more collaboratively, or more prayerfully as you seek to be faithful in your local context.

Note what support or connection would help you move forward

Reflect on where partnership or encouragement from others might be beneficial – within your mission community, deanery, or the wider life of the Diocese – and consider how you might explore or request that support.

These steps are offered to support ongoing discernment, recognising that strategy grows best when rooted in prayer, shared wisdom, and openness to the leading of the Holy Spirit.