

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHILDREN'S STRATEGY Autumn 2017

### *'Supporting children as disciples of Jesus'*

The Children's Work (Children and Families') strategy has been developed to support the Ely2025 Strategy and contains 4 main strands, each related to key strategy levers.

**The overarching strategic aim is to grow the number of children and families worshipping in our churches and to deepen their discipleship**

#### **Strand 1: Training, Seminars & Resources**

**To increase the capacity and skill of those working with children and families**

Key statistic: Training for Children's Authorised Lay Ministers in 2016 and 2017 added 6 new ALMs to the existing cohort of 13 taking it to 19 ie: an increase of 46%.

#### **Training and resource provision at various levels:**

- **Recognised professional qualification**-Diploma in Theology, Ministry and Mission via Licensed Lay Ministry funded by the Diocese
- **Authorised Lay Ministry(ALM)** where people are trained and then authorised for 4 years
- **Core Skills and Occasional Seminars**
- **Way of Life resources**
- **Grandparent Resource**
- **Baptism toolkit**

#### Expected outcomes

Development of vocational ministry  
Increased missional effectiveness

#### **Strand 2: Family friendly church models (including Messy Church)**

**To grow work with young families**

Key statistic: New Messy Churches (2106:8 and 2017:2 so far) have increased the total number of Church of England Messy Churches in Cambridgeshire to 56 ie: an increase of 23%

#### **Training and consultancy is offered to:**

- **Start new Messy Churches (and similar models)**
- **Increase the effectiveness of existing churches**
- **To develop discipleship**
- **To form a network to offer support and share ideas and resources**

#### Expected outcomes

Growth in number of family friendly churches  
Developing discipleship including support for faith at home

#### **Strand 3: School Communities**

**Fostering relationships between churches and their local primary schools**

## **This is a developing area for Mission**

The impact of churches on their local schools depends on the development of healthy, mutually supportive relationships. Many opportunities exist to develop relationships and the strategy aims to set up and support closer working relationships between churches and their schools, both for the clergy and lay people.

### Expected outcomes

Schools benefit from church support

Closer community links

## **Strand 4: Baptism Follow Up**

### **To develop the event of Baptism into a lifelong relationship**

[Key statistic: In 2016 Ely Diocese had 1569 Baptism and Thanksgivings in under 12s \(Baptisms-infant 963 and 495 juvenile; Thanksgivings infant 82 and 29 other\) Source: Statistics for Mission 2016](#)

### **Training and consultancy is offered to:**

- **Make the most of opportunities Baptism offers (based on Research into Baptism)**
- **Increase the skills of lay people supporting clergy in baptism preparation and follow up**
- **Support development of appropriate groups for young families**

### Expected outcomes

More families will want to have a service of Baptism or Thanksgiving

More families remain involved in church life after the Baptism/Thanksgiving service

### ***Underpinning for the Strands offered by the Children's Adviser:***

- *New initiatives can apply for financial support through Local Mission Project Fund(LMPF) or Growth Fund and offered advice, support and follow up from the CA*
- *Training and Resources offered via the Ely Diocese website children's pages, including a Families' Way (Rule)of Life*
- *Regular Mailchimp mailings to 1 100 people working with children*
- *Monthly Messy Church Mailings offering resources and training*
- *Dedicated Facebook page for Children's ALMs*
- *24 Pinterest pages with ideas for festivals and topics eg: Creative Prayer.*
- *A group of newly appointed children/families' workers is planned to meet in the late Autumn*
- *Twitter to promote training events*