

# Emerging Overall Diocesan Priorities

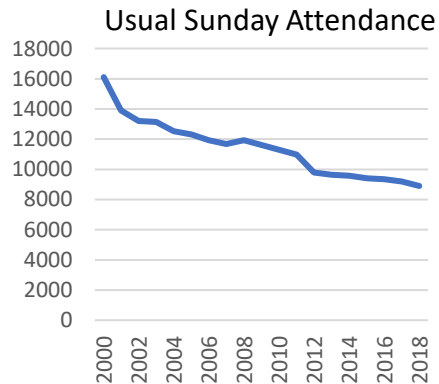


# Kingdom People vision & transformation...

- ❖ Our diocesan vision is to grow as Kingdom People sharing the good news of Jesus' love in Worcestershire and Dudley.
- ❖ As the body of Christ, we join together to worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities.
- ❖ We want to enable church communities across the Diocese to grow in health and sustainability.



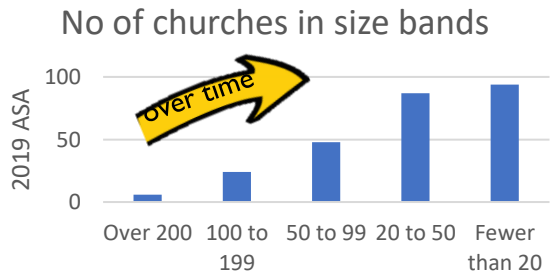
# Background...



By 2018, we'd seen numbers dropping by 40% since 2000.



Nearly half of our congregations are aged over 70 (49% compared with C of E average of 33%)



2019 Average Sunday Attendance	Over 200	100 to 199	50 to 99	30 to 49	20 to 29	10 to 19	Fewer than 10
Number of churches	6	24	48	47	40	53	41



Under 18 AWA as % of Christian population: Worcester 0.22% vs Total C of E 0.5% (lowest diocese)  
Numbers reducing faster than C of E average.

# Change in national funding...

## Tailoring Diocesan Investment

The Diocesan Strategic Investment, underpinned by the Lowest Income Communities Funding for those dioceses who receive it, will provide dioceses with the tailored support they need now to enable the Church's Vision and Strategy and build their capacity to develop mission further.



# Process...

- Bishops Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- DLTs with Bishops Staff on 6<sup>th</sup> October
- Diocesan Synod on 7<sup>th</sup> November

Mission Plan

People Plan

Finance Plan

- Residential Bishop's Council in mid-February
- Application to National Church

*Setting Direction yet Adaptive*



## Three Priorities...

C&YP

Renewals

NWC

## Underpinned by...

Equipping ministers for mission

## Supported by...

Mission Acc

LInC Funding

HC Fund

Rural Strategy

Smaller Churches

Alternative Ministry  
Pathways

Discipleship

Buildings

New Housing

# Three priorities suggested...



## Children & Young People

- Seek 2 (+) employed workers per deanery
- Focus on Christian children/youth work, but also contact making / schools.
- Focus through the week rather than Sunday (AWA rather than ASA is the key measure)

whilst also supporting local initiatives.

# Three priorities suggested...



Children  
& Young  
People



Church  
renewals

- Seek at least 1 church with 150 or so AWA in large centres of population.
- Smaller than Resourcing Churches (lower investment)
- Around 12 churches over the next 5 years or so.

whilst also supporting local initiatives.



# Three priorities suggested...



Children &  
Young  
People



Church  
renewals



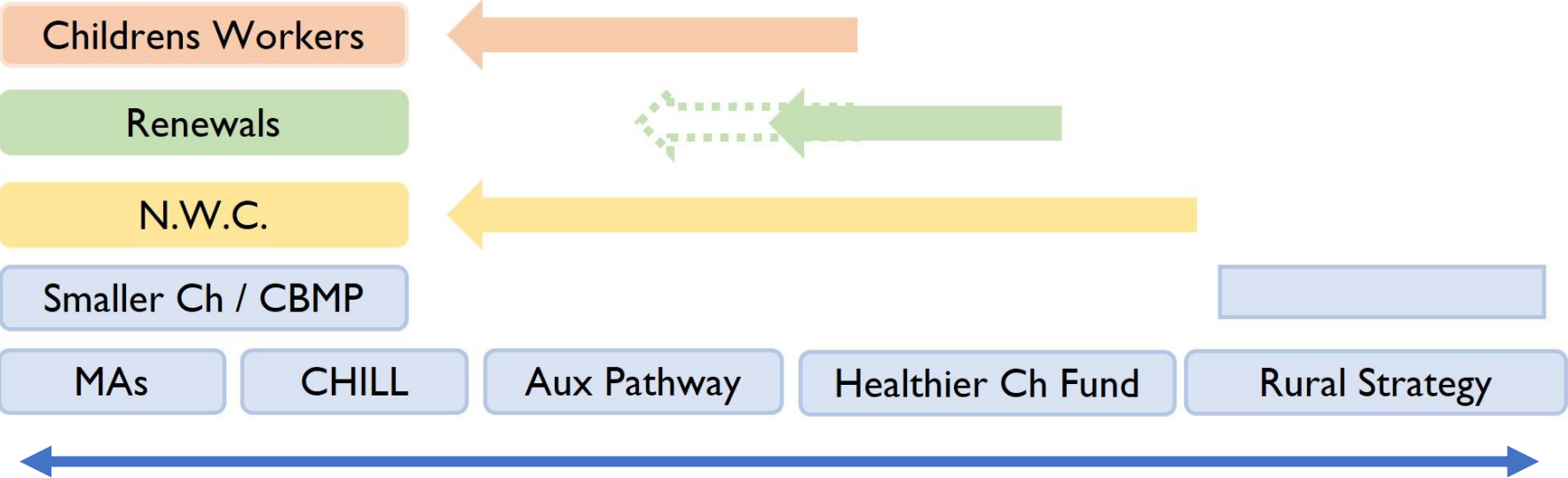
New  
Worshipping  
Communities

- Encourage one per benefice.
- Doesn't need to be complex.
- Provide support.

whilst also supporting local initiatives.

# Balancing targeted investment with broad support

	Over 200	100 to 199	50 to 99	30 to 49	20 to 29	10 to 19	Fewer than 10
Number of churches	6	24	48	47	40	53	41



# Balancing targeted investment with broad support whereby with God's grace we might....

- double the number of Children and Young People in our churches
- see 100 new worshipping communities arise, and a number of existing ones strengthened.
- see a greater number of healthy and sustainable churches by 2030
- see new vocations to new forms of ministry.
- encourage a greater sense of formation, mission and discipleship, flowing out of new and existing communities.



# Questions for discussion....

- What do you find energising or hopeful about these priorities?
- What difference do you think this overall plan as proposed will make in addressing decline, and is it far-reaching enough?
- What do you think will be most encouraging and most challenging about the plan in the parishes?

