



Vision, Mission and Values



Diocese of Bristol

TRANSFORMING CHURCH.
TOGETHER.



Our Values

Openness – we value openness, and we are loving and open to all. Our behaviour is welcoming. We want to be a safe, accessible, kind, and welcoming space for everyone. We want our communities to feel embraced, their diverse needs met, and for them to benefit from a long-term relationship based on acceptance and love for people as God made them.

Creativity – we value creativity, and we co-operate with the work of the Spirit. We are faithful, rooted in faith and responsive to the Spirit. Our communities feel inspired, this is bold and joyful faith, work and worship that engages us all. We want our communities to experience a variety of projects and worship styles, celebrating tradition and innovation in connection to God.

Generosity – we value generosity and receive and give sincerely. We give our time and resources to share what we know of Jesus' love. We want our communities to feel supported and cared for in the way Jesus would do, to experience God's love through our action and an opportunity to journey into faith if they choose.

Bravery – we value bravery, we are courageous with our voices and our actions. Jesus tells us to “take courage, I have conquered the world” (John 16.33). And so, following the repeated biblical command ‘Do not be afraid’, we acknowledge and learn from our past and actively effect positive change in the world. We want our communities to feel empowered as they are listened to, supported, and partnered with in seeking transformational change. The collective voices and actions of our community will help to bring about transformational change.

*Take courage, I have
conquered the world*

Strategic outcomes and mission design

What are our strategic outcomes?

We have worked together to devise four strategic options to deliver our mission which are as follows:

- To have a form of church in every community, and churches in which all can participate, thrive, and belong.
- To have people in our parishes who worship God in every aspect of their lives, and throughout their whole lives.
- For the diocese (parishes and benefices) to be recognised as a powerful force for gospel change.
- For the diocese and parishes to be sustainable (environmentally and financially).

How will we achieve our strategic outcomes?

To achieve our strategic outcomes, we will focus on parishes, benefices, Bishops' Mission Orders and chaplaincies to invest in:

- Discipleship – our Ministers, Churches, Parishes and Benefices, Volunteers, and Young People.
- Social Action – to deliver Social Justice on several levels.
- Sustainability – making us environmentally and financially sustainable.

What is our overall mission design?

Our overall mission design can be described under four missional objectives:

Missional Communities – The right forms of church in the right places

- Mission Areas (a collaborative group of Parishes) that encourage trust, promote adaptation and provide resource sharing.
- Fresh Expressions of Church (i.e., Church for those who don't do church) given space to grow from existing communities and in new areas.
- Church 'plants and grafts' that revitalise under-resourced or underserved areas.

Missional Leadership – Ministerial vocations that adapt and enable

- Vocational development to sustain and equip fruitful lay and ordained leaders.
- A culture of inclusion, collaboration and partnership working, to grow our faith.
- A wider 'volunteer' base to enhance and liberate ministry teams, and to establish missional links.

Missional Engagement – New connections and clearer pathways to faith (how people come to Christ)

- Worshipping communities that share in the life and struggles of their wider communities.
- Prioritisation of under 18's and bringing children, young people, and families to faith.
- Adoption of both established and innovative approaches to nurture new faith journeys – taking people from first contact with the church through to confirmation.

Missional Action and Advocacy – Social transformation as witness and worship

- Local churches who address injustice and inequality in their local contexts.
- Discipleship development that empowers all Christians to live out the five marks of mission.
- Networks to organise and promote partnerships (with like-minded partners) to campaign for, and enact, real social change.

Our Vision, Mission, and Values

What is our Vision?

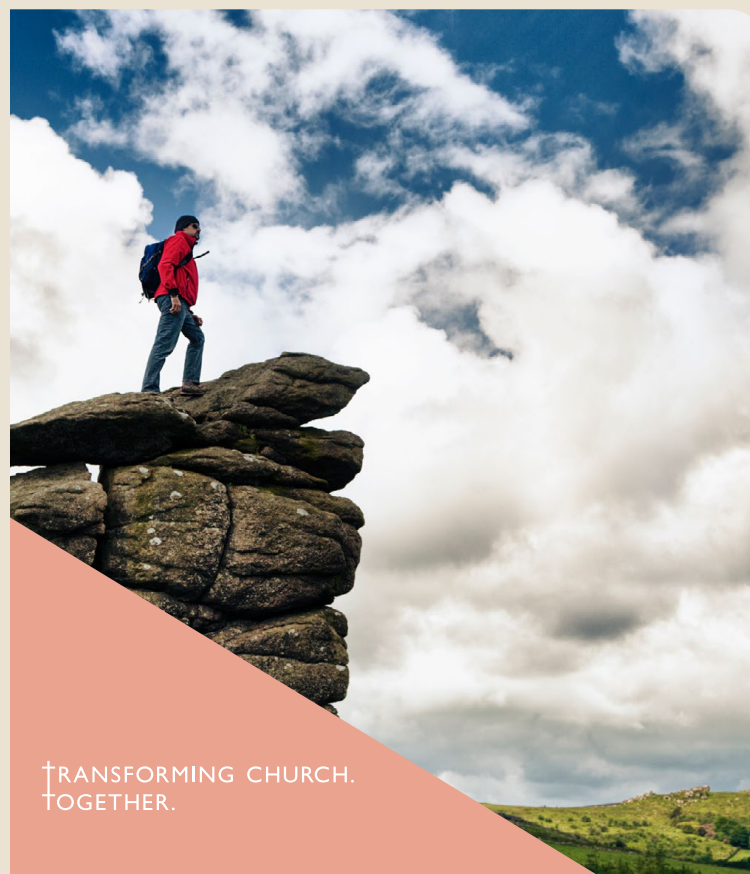
Our vision for the future is Humanity Reconciled, Creation Restored.

What is our Mission?

Our mission is to follow Jesus, to serve others, and to transform communities.

What are our Values?

Our values, informed by our understanding of Jesus, underpin everything we do and say, and will play a critical role in delivering the strategy.



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Underpinning the missional activities, work will be necessary on Capacity Building:

People – Development of disciples and ministers; based on vision, behaviours, and competencies.

Buildings – The strategic review of our church buildings, and funding their development for missional purposes, mixed use and to deliver net zero by 2030.

Partnerships – Building and exploiting our external relationships (locally and as a Diocese) to leverage more resources, and more influence, especially with campaigns against injustice.

Communications – Compelling missional storytelling, and campaigns to mobilise social action. We have recently appointed a new Director of Transformation who is working with the Bishops, Archdeacons, and the senior leadership team to develop an implementation route map, so we sequence all this work carefully (as far as we are able), and avoid trying to do it all at once.

Contact us

For more about our Vision, Mission and Values visit www.bristol.anglican.org or email transformingchurch@bristoldiocese.org

