

The Direction of Travel

an update ... Advent 2018



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

<p>The Invitation</p> <p>Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad</p>	<p><i>At a Diocesan gathering in February this year, Bishop's Council, Diocesan Officers, Rural Deans and Lay Chairs, Bishop's Staff Meeting and representatives of chaplaincies, schools, Fresh Expressions and the Cathedral met to consider what this invitation to follow Christ meant for us as a Diocese.</i></p> <p><i>All framed by the story of St Chad—mission, hospitality, border-crossing, learning and humility of life.</i></p>
<p>The Vision</p> <p>As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.</p>	<p><i>At this gathering a fresh "vision" for the Diocese was set out.</i></p> <p><i>This vision is to be owned by parishes, chaplaincies, Fresh Expressions, schools and the Cathedral in their own way and in their own context.</i></p> <p>www.lichfield.anglican.org/our_vision</p>
<p>The Priorities</p> <p>discipleship vocation evangelism</p>	<p><i>As a Diocese we are committed in all we do to developing discipleship, encouraging vocation and inspiring evangelism</i></p> <p><i>These priorities help us focus our work as a Diocese and we commend them to our parishes, schools, chaplaincies, Fresh Expressions and Cathedral</i></p>

What has happened since?

1. Bishop Michael has convened a **Direction of Travel Steering Group** that meets regularly to oversee the progress and implementation of the Direction of Travel
2. Diocesan officers and staff have agreed a set of **values** by which they will work
3. Diocesan officers responsible for work on the Discipleship, Vocation and Evangelism (DVE) priorities and the Board of Education and St Chads' Academy Trust have relocated to **Three Spires House** to allow for closer working. Lindsey Hall has been appointed as Lead Officer for DVE Project Implementation
4. A new **Monitoring Framework** has been developed to help evaluate our work across a number of areas
5. The **Diocesan website** has been re-structured to reflect the re-organisation into DVE and Central Administrative Support teams.

Looking ahead

1. **DVE projects** are being developed that include new bible study resources, work on confronting modern slavery, practising generosity, sharing the gospel, engaging with the environment and a series of lessons for Year 9 students to help them consider their vocation. www.lichfield.anglican.org/DVE_projects
2. Officers are collating learning from the **four mission projects**, work that connects with schools, chaplaincy, fresh expressions of church and young people (www.lichfield.anglican.org/mission_projects)
3. A **Strategic Development Funding bid** for Telford with a clear mission and inter-generational focus has been submitted
4. Bishop Michael has invited **Rural Deans and Lay Chairs** to meet with him in January to consider how they might live out and embed the Vision in their particular context. **Chaplains** and **leaders of Fresh Expression** also to be consulted in December and March respectively.
5. Bishop Michael has initiated a discussion on **resource allocation** in the light of the Direction of Travel
6. As a Diocese we have engaged with the national church's work on the **Setting God's People Free** and established a team to implement the report in this Diocese
7. Advice on **Mission Action Planning** has been revised and questions for "local" reflection on the Vision statement produced

Owning the Vision

Parishes, chaplaincies, schools and Fresh Expressions are invited to connect their vision to the Diocesan vision with this prayer

God of Love, as we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the [..... *hundred/thousand*] people in our [*school/Fresh Expression/chaplaincy/parish of*] encounter a [*school/Fresh Expression/chaplaincy/church*] that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its community, and is excited to find You at work already in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those communities. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope. Amen.

.... and questions like these

1. Where and how do people "encounter" your Christian community?
2. How might you and your Christian community be helped to be more "confident" in your faith?
3. How well do you know your community? What would help you get to know it even better?
4. Where have you found God at work in your neighbourhood, family or friendship group or workplace? How can you join in?
5. How well does your church, school, Fresh Expression or chaplaincy reflect the community you serve?
6. Who are your partners now and with whom could you partner in the future as you seek the common good?
7. Where do you see a lack of justice in your context or in the wider world and where do you think you can make a difference?
8. In what ways do you speak of Christian hope to your community?