



### A. Vision and Priorities

1. In the Diocese of Liverpool we say that we are **asking God for a bigger church so that we can make a bigger difference: more people knowing Jesus, and more justice in the world.**
2. We both pray for this purpose, and work together with God for this purpose. In our work we have four missional priorities: **introducing people to Jesus, deepening discipleship, developing Christian leaders, and working for justice.**
3. Everything that we do should be directed to, or should support the delivery of, one of these four priorities. We are prepared to test our actions and our programmes by that measure.

### B. Continuity and Transformation

1. This vision and these priorities are not new in the Diocese of Liverpool. What is new is our clear focus and a serious attempt to change what holds us back, in our capacity and training, in our use of resources, in our church and diocesan culture. If we can do this we hope to see a real transformation.
2. In a transformed diocese every part of the diocese will work effectively on the four priorities:
  - a. In a transformed diocese of Liverpool everybody will have the opportunity to come to know God in Jesus Christ, and to join a community worshipping God which is both available and accessible to them.  
Therefore **every church community and body will need to take intentional steps to encourage invitation and evangelism, and to start new as well as maintaining existing healthy worshipping communities that are accessible all people in their communities.**
  - b. In a transformed diocese of Liverpool every church member will have the opportunity to know God more fully, and serve him more effectively, by learning and putting into practice the six disciplines of the Rule of Life.  
Therefore **every church community and body will need to have a culture of expecting deepening of discipleship, and practices which mean all six disciplines are taught and modelled in ways appropriate to their members.**
  - c. In a transformed diocese of Liverpool every disciple will have the opportunity to discover and use God's particular calling for them at home, in school, at work, and in digital and social spaces, as well as to all forms of leadership within and beyond the institutions of the Church.  
Therefore **every church community and body will support and enable Christians to live out their discipleship wherever they are and to**

**consider where God may be calling them, and will specifically identify and develop those who God is calling to leadership in the Church, whether within that community or elsewhere.**

- d. In a transformed diocese of Liverpool every church community and body will model justice in its own life, deal justly with others, witness to God's call to justice, and serve the needs of its community.  
Therefore **every church community and body will need to be at work to treat all God's children with justice, whether inside or outside the church; to find ways for Christians to have influence in God's world and to support and enable their members to take them; and to discern the particular needs of their communities and find ways to serve them.**

3. In order to enable and support this vision we will have to work together better:

- a. In a transformed Diocese of Liverpool those who plan and make decisions in our own church bodies and communities will work together in formal and informal structures so that the four-fold mission can be carried out everywhere. **Therefore local church (parish and deanery) structures will need to change so that they follow the mission and don't constrain it, and parish and deanery leaders will expect to be coached and supported so as to work together effectively.**
- b. In a transformed Diocese of Liverpool diocesan leaders, structures and resources will be the servants of the needs of the deaneries' and parishes' mission. **Therefore deanery leaders and diocesan staff be expected to develop support, resources and training, explicitly and specifically to help local churches in the four mission priorities, and diocesan leaders will need to be coached to prioritise and serve the needs of local churches.**
- c. In a transformed Diocese of Liverpool leaders (at diocesan, deanery and parish level) will hold one another accountable for promoting the four-fold mission of the diocese. **Therefore we will have to develop a culture of honesty and transparency, and to build fruitful relationships, between leaders at all levels. Every leader, and every local church, will expect - and will want - to be asked what they are doing to so that the members of the body of Christ are able to follow their calling in mission.**
- d. A transformed Diocese of Liverpool will be even more aspirational than now, but will also be much more practical, focussing on what we can deliver as well as on what we can dream. **Therefore leaders at all levels will be expected to ask and answer questions like "How are we going to do this?" and "What resources do we need?" and we will need strong realism tests at all levels of decision making.**