

Aligning Resources for Mission



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

Living the story. Telling the story.

Work is underway to enable missional activity to be prioritised in every parish, every deanery, every archdeaconry and across the diocesan support teams that serve them.

This booklet introduces the four distinct, yet interconnected, work streams that are being progressed to achieve this.

For more on the Diocese of Bath and Wells' vision and priorities see:
www.bathandwells.org.uk/livingandtelling



Aligning Resources for Mission is all about getting the right people in the right places, doing the right thing at the right time.



Archdeacon of Bath, Adrian Youngs



The aim is to ensure that Diocesan Support Services – the teams of people who support parishes and schools – are fully aligned to the flourishing of mission-focused churches in all the different contexts across the diocese.

What's involved?

- Ministry for Mission teams reviewing their priorities and deploying more time and resource to parish support.
- Central Services – including property and finance—reviewing processes to ensure support for flourishing of churches.
- A new process enabling parishes to review their mission and ministry and to discern their future shape.
- Liaison with groups who have insight into mission and ministry in particular contexts. E.g. the Flourishing Rural Church Group.

Notes/Questions



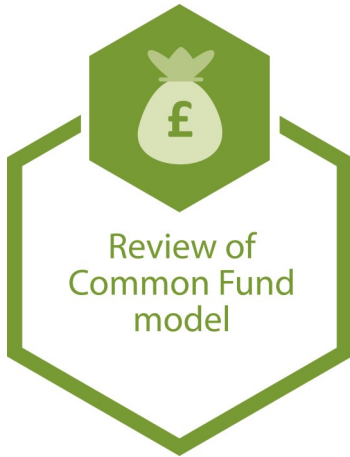
The diocese is committed to enabling the flourishing of ministry across all contexts in Bath and Wells, but it's clear that some areas of ministry will need particular investment of resources over the medium-term.

Two areas have already been identified by Diocesan Synod as current priorities for resourcing.

Areas of deprivation: Diocesan Synod has designated this as a particular focus for investment in response to the gospel call to pay particular attention to the poor (Galatians 2:10)

Growing new Christian communities: The diocese is committed to investing in working with communities where church currently has little impact.

Notes/Questions



The aim is a Common Fund model which supports and enables local mission.

The current Common Fund model has this year brought in 99% of the resources needed for the agreed budget. However, strains have become apparent over the last few years. In particular, there has been a widening of the gap between parishes who are ‘supporting’ and those who are ‘supported’.

The review of our existing Common Fund model, which is being undertaken in the context of a wider budget review, involves:

- Ensuring clear biblical foundations for our Common Fund
- Assessing the range of models used across the Church of England
- Reviewing how membership and relative ability to pay is measured
- Reviewing how Diocesan Support Services responds to parishes unable to meet their Parish Share

Notes/Questions



As a diocese we want to become more intentional in our strategic planning for the deployment of clergy and laity across Bath and Wells. A plan, based on clear strategic principles, will be developed to ensure the flourishing of mission-focused ministry in every parish.

Buildings is a key issue to address. The care of ancient buildings often falls on just a few people and becomes a distraction from the call to live and tell the story of Jesus. There is a need to re-imagine the use of some of our buildings and review how the diocese would respond and cope if parishes feel they need to consider closure over the next few years.

What's involved?

- Establishing clear mission-focused deployment and pastoral reorganisation principles. These principles will be based on a real understanding of the current and future needs of different contexts across the diocese e.g. rural, town, suburban, city, Magnificat.
- Engaging the insights of key groups, such as the Flourishing Rural Church Group, the Magnificat Parish Group and the Larger Churches Group.
- Establishing clear processes for planning and decision-making about deployment and pastoral reorganisation at diocesan, archdeaconry, deanery and parish/benefice level.
- Ensuring the diocese is attracting, raising up and retaining gifted, mission-focused leaders for all our different contexts.
- Enabling churches to develop their buildings for mission and planning for changes that may need to happen in the way buildings are used across the diocese.

Notes/Questions