



## Energising Growth

**We will pray, support one another, plan and work together in order to foster growth in all our contexts, in order to:**

- 1. Grow in reach and influence** – working for the transformation of our communities through the transformation of our churches;
- 2. Grow in depth – strengthening discipleship**, being transformed by the renewing of our minds and choosing to reflect and serve Jesus by using our gifts to join in with his mission in every part of life;
- 3. Grow in breadth – growth in the number of people identifying as Christian** and fully participating in the life and mission of a local church family.





*'Again, Jesus said 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me so I am sending you'. And with that he breathed on them and said 'Receive the Holy Spirit'*

*John 20:21*



**Throughout the gospels, Jesus presents growth as a normal and expected characteristic of the life that is deeply rooted in Him, open to his purposes and filled with his empowering presence.**

His teaching about the growth and multiplication of vines, mustard seeds and talents all speak of this and of the effect, importance and beauty of God's work within and through us, as His kingdom is established, transforming the world around it.

**The Energising Growth priority** seeks to encourage this in all of our contexts. Over the course of the next five years we will work together to energise and resource growth in three important ways:

- **Growing in reach** and influence – effecting the transformation of our communities through the transformation of our churches;
- **Growing in depth** – strengthening **discipleship**, being transformed by the renewing of our minds and choosing to reflect and serve Jesus by using our gifts to join in with his mission in every part of life;
- **Growing in breadth** – growth in the number of people newly identifying as Christian and committed to and participating in a local church family (Heb 10:25).

Investing in this will produce fruit and change in our personal lives, in our churches and in the wider community as we join in with God's work, responding to his call to mission by taking new steps of faith.

**As a Diocese we will resource this by:**

- Introducing new, more accessible routes for local leadership development;
- Developing training and resources to support church planting through **'Cultivate'** and the **'Healthy Church' initiative**;
- **Supporting deaneries and churches to plant or revitalise churches and congregations**;
- Appointing a Diocesan evangelism & discipleship enabler;
- Extending and supporting the development of chaplaincy to grow our reach in schools, prisons and other contexts;
- **Enabling more diverse forms of leadership** and welcoming Children, Youth & 18-25s more fully as partners in the life and mission of our churches;
- Supporting churches to engage more people, more fully in **prayer** and mission initiatives;
- Supporting every church member to influence the world around them by promoting and resourcing **Everyday Faith**.

Stepping towards this, through developing locally relevant plans for mission, collaborating as churches together, engaging in opportunities for support and learning, as well sharing our insights, experiments, successes and godly failures are all important ways that we can each join in and become part of the transforming work of growth that God is calling us to.