

DIOCESAN SYNOD

Paper Reference	5.2
Title	Missional Pathways Summary Document
Meeting and Date	17 th February 2024
Paper submitted by	Director of Mission & Ministry
Background including any previous outcome(s)	<p>Creative Partnerships in Local Mission forms one of the 5 strategic priorities that underpin the Diocesan vision to <i>Make Jesus Known</i>. A key element of this strand of the vision is to explore new ways of working together at a local level across traditional boundaries, recognising both the strengths and vulnerabilities of the current ways of being church.</p> <p>Missional Pathways will trial different ways of working that will inform our thinking and generate learning. The aim is to develop good practice, enable cultural change, and increase the missional impact of our mission and ministry across a wider landscape.</p> <p>Missional Pathways will be encouraged to consider what additional resources are needed or how resources could be deployed more creatively to bring about the desired change. Any additional resource will come from national funding.</p> <p>6 Missional Pathways have been identified by the Bishops and supported by Bishop’s Council from across geographically diverse contexts with development support rolled out over the next 3 years.</p>
What is required of this meeting? Note/Receive/Decision/Action	To note and discuss.
Please explain any acronyms not explained in the text.	CPiLM: Creative Partnerships in Local Mission

What are Missional Pathways?

Missional Pathways are a designated group of parishes, school Trusts and new worshipping communities committed to working together around a local shared vision for mission, resourced through diverse and courageous ministry teams which may include Children and Young people (CYP), Chaplains, Pioneers, Youth Workers, Clergy, Lay Ministry & School Leaders.

Missional Pathways seek to create spaces to experiment, innovate and imagine through which we can reframe our approach to mission and ministry. Missional Pathways will facilitate a culture of collaboration across churches, schools, Trusts and external partners (for example, the military, Sarum College, missional organisations, youth agencies, ecumenical networks) and be supported by targeted interventions, resources, and support to equip local churches, schools and Trusts in all their forms, as they respond to the missional opportunities and priorities that they identify at a local level.

Each Missional Pathways seeks to nurture a culture that is:

- Committed to praying, working, and serving collaboratively across the designated area.
- Committed to the revitalization of the parish system where mixed ecology is the norm.
- Committed to the growth of missional disciples where all God's people are empowered and enabled to Make Jesus Known, shaped by the 5 marks of mission, and rooted in a life of prayer and service.
- Committed to becoming a younger and more diverse church through the development of a Growing Faith network which sits at the intersection of church, school, and household.
- Committed to simplifying structures and processes to further support and enable local mission & ministry.
- Committed to the creative alignment of local resources including people, buildings, and finance to enable the effective delivery of mission and ministry.
- Committed to becoming a financially viable and sustainable missional area.
- Committed to collaborative ministry teams, that embody the mutuality of ministries as a priority value.

Each Missional Pathway desires to:

- Be outward focused and prayerfully attentive in responding to the local context, as they seek to Make Jesus Known.
- Actively seek to partner with local agencies, civic trusts, ecumenical bodies, and other appropriate agencies to be present and effective within the local context.
- Consider the missing generations in each context, and the people and communities who the church is not engaging with, encouraging the growth of evangelistic fruitfulness and activity which is rooted in relationships.
- Accountable for the growth of discipleship, missional engagement, and nurturing vocations that enables the whole people of God to flourish in mission and ministry.
- Be supported in mission by targeted diocesan intervention and provision, (for e.g., Missional Accompaniment)
- Share financial resources realistically and generously.

Each Missional Pathway is shaped by:

- A shared understanding of mission that recognizes the distinct nature of the local context.
- A flexible infrastructure to enable and support the effective coordination and delivery of agreed missional priorities.
- A diverse ministry team, led by a dedicated named leader (lay or ordained) who will support and encourage mission and ministry across the pilot area.

The Missional Pathways Framework is intended to shape local conversations, whilst being flexible to adapt to the different contexts that will make up these missional areas. Funding from the National Church will focus on the building of local leadership capacity to enable the desired culture change in line with the diocesan vision and local aspirations.

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Jan 2024