

Making Jesus Known: Bringing the Five priorities to life, locally

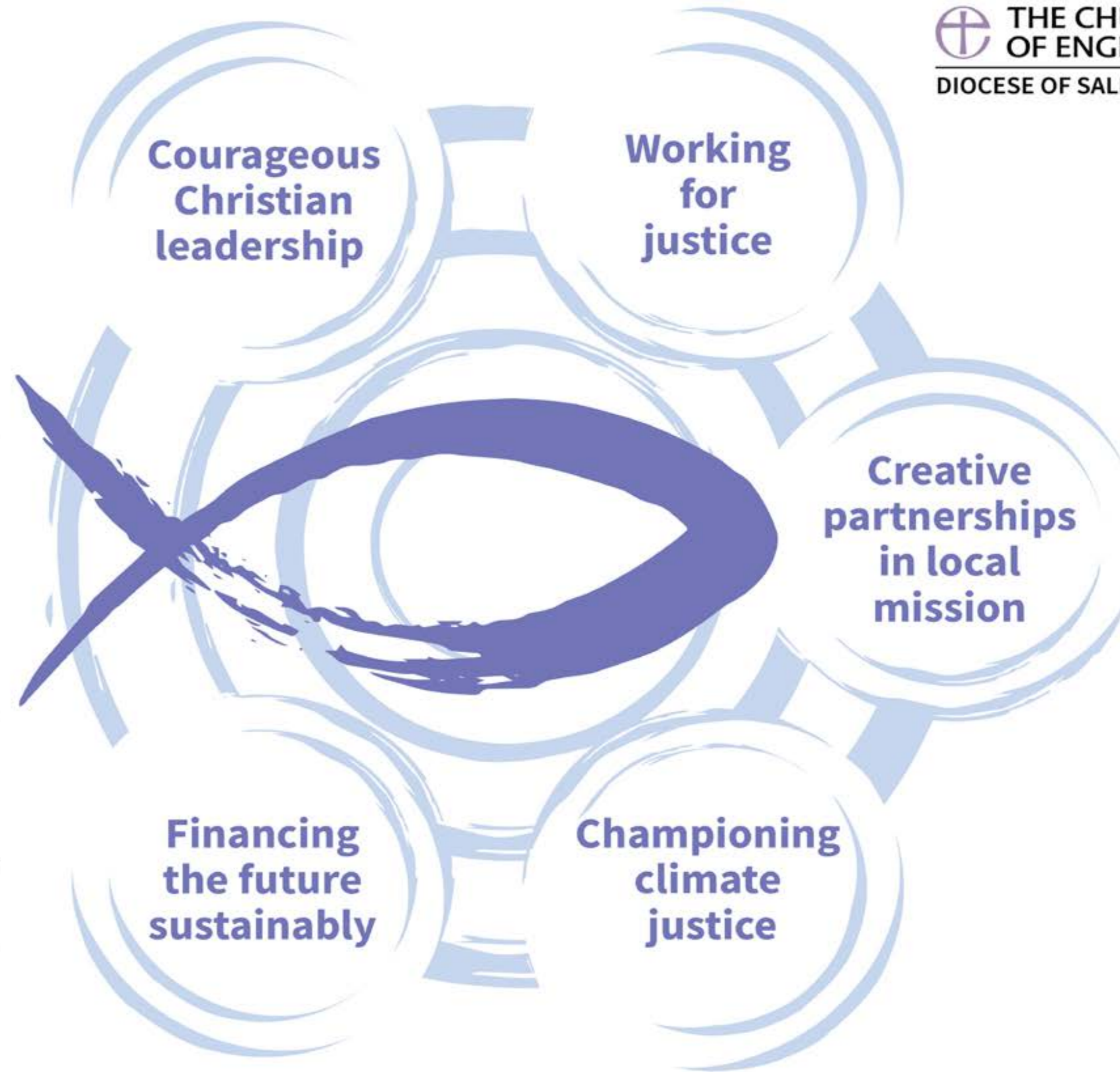
September 2023

Making Jesus Known

Our Vision

To make Jesus Christ
known in every place so
that all might flourish and
grow, seeking His Kingdom,
here and now.

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he
has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the
captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to set free
those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of
the Lord's favour." Luke 4: 18-19*



INTRODUCTION

Our vision Making Jesus Known is rooted in Luke chapter four and the passage known as the Nazarene Manifesto – Jesus’ own mission statement. In it he sets out the agenda for what will follow in his ministry; he reads from the Old Testament, Isaiah 61:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”*

These short verses speak of God’s priorities, which Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit fulfils during his earthy ministry. Jesus’ mission is our mission, and so it was to Scripture we returned when we drew up the plan for the next decade, to guide how we use the limited but adequate resources we have to Make Jesus Known, that all might flourish and grow, seeking his Kingdom, here and now. With Luke 4 before us, the synod of the Diocese of Salisbury committed itself unanimously to the priorities of courageous Christian leadership, championing climate justice, forming creative partnerships in local mission and working for justice. In order to fulfil these four priorities, we are also committed to building a sustainable financial future for the Church.

Every parish in the diocese is invited to be part of this mission. Some of the areas in which you are already working will mirror some of these priorities but there may be new challenges and opportunities that you uncover, as you seek to Make Jesus Known in your place. This vision and strategy is about local mission, rooted and grounded in your context, with wider support and with a commitment to work together. This brief document is intended to help resource the conversations that are happening across the whole diocese, asking questions and offering some examples of different ways of living out our common vision.

I thank God for the gifts of your time and your energy as you begin to have these conversations. I believe we can be confident in this new future, not just because of our own efforts but because of our confidence in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And I pray that as we worship in different styles and different places, we can be one in fulfilling the vision, to Make Jesus Known.

+ Stephen Summ



BISHOP STEPHEN

**BISHOP
OF
SALISBURY**

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN LOCAL MISSION



This is an invitation to consider how we live faithfully as missional disciples serving the purpose of God. It's an invitation to ask the question what does it mean to be the Church, here and now, in this place, working with others to fulfil the purposes of God? and who are our partners? This requires a willingness to consider how we can partner with others including ecumenical bodies and other faith groups, schools, missional agencies, the military, local organisations, and civic leaders who share our passion, concerns, and love for the peoples we serve. for the sake of bringing about community transformation as we live out gospel values and make Jesus known.

Questions to consider

As you consider Making Jesus Known in your parish or area, how connected are you already as a church or churches to local organisations and charities, through personal involvement of members of the congregation? Maybe it would be helpful to map how large that network is? Are there any common themes which would make the task that Jesus called us to easier working with others? Are you already partnering with others to serve your community? What creative partnerships exist and where are the opportunities for new relationships to emerge? What difference will it make?

By committing to affirming and creating new ***Creative Partnerships in Local Mission*** we will:

- Grow an intergenerational Church which fully represents the communities we serve in age and diversity.
- Actively seek out and grow multi-agency partnerships bringing about community transformation.
- Through creative partnerships develop social enterprises to support the growth and sustainability of healthy vibrant communities.
- Revitalise the Parish System for mission including supporting new worshipping communities, through equipping the people of God to serve their communities with renewed confidence and courage.
- Focus on developing local leadership that is confident to collaborate with others in responding too and serving the needs of our communities.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN LOCAL MISSION

What is happening already?

Stephanie Rann Head of RE at the Gryphon and Lead of Sherborne and Shaftesbury Young leaders Project - a Growing Faith learning Hub:

“ This Year students from across Sherborne, supported by church and school partnership, have begun a revolutionary Youth project where youth agency is at the centre of all we do. Students have launched the very first Youth Council for Sherborne, bringing together members from across the community in a process that began in the heart of Sherborne Abbey. All decisions have been entirely student led, guided by members of the church, schools and our town council, young people are having their voices heard, finding their vocation as young leaders and being advocates for the community. ”

Lucy Lines - Shaftesbury Dreamscheme lead volunteer:

“ This year’s and last year’s Dreamscheme has been Making Jesus Known within the local community and school and making regular church members familiar faces within the town. Dreamscheme is all about allowing young people to explore their faith through participation in community based workshops such as sport & talk, food waste & recycling, sustainable fashion, prayer space and first aid. Groups such as Shaftesbury HomeGrown, the community allotment are keen to work with us again, and have been extremely positive about the work we have done so far. I think our Dreamscheme work is also Making Jesus Known in school - I saw 4 of our Dreamschemers in the new year 7 cohort at Shaftesbury School on the first day back and it was so exciting to talk with them about their summer and have them ask if Dreamscheme was happening again. ”

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

The passage from Luke which underpins the vision Making Jesus Known puts justice firmly at the heart of the mission of the Church. Following Jesus' call means encountering Christ who transforms our own hearts and minds, and committing to sharing this transformative encounter with all those we meet. It means working for justice across society, listening to and magnifying the voices of people facing poverty and injustice, supporting local action and using our voice to challenge injustice wherever it exists. As it also means speaking out on behalf of those who have little voice, particularly the last, the least and the lost. As Christ followers, we must 'insist on the world becoming the way that God wants it to be' (Jacques Ellul). This priority is a direct response to the Fourth Mark of Mission, which challenges us 'to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation'.

Questions to consider

Needs and aspirations will be different in our diverse church and school communities. From your own prayer, reflection and listening to your community, what needs are apparent? What other voices might need attending to in order to discover hidden needs and hidden communities? Are we paying attention to the voices of our children and young people? How can the church community respond to what is uncovered – and what opportunities are there to work with others in your community to respond? Who do we need to involve to enable us to have a stronger voice when speaking out against local, regional or national injustice?

What difference will it make?

By pledging ourselves to action through *Working for Justice* we will be:

- An effective and valued partner to those taking responsibility to improve the lives and communities in which we serve
- A trusted and respected voice in standing up for those whose voice is often unheard in our communities
- A Christ centred diocese which models its aspiration for justice throughout its many parts and structures, including its leadership bodies

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

What is happening already?

Beatriz Brooks a lay pioneer working with migrants and priests in Poole:

“ I constantly ask myself how can I support them? What can I do for them? How do I navigate this labyrinth together with them and at the same time maintain my mental health? The answer is not always clear, let alone audible. However, trusting in God and using the talents of other individuals in the community are perhaps the most important factors in establishing a plan of action. My work began with visits, meetings, phone conversations, etc. with individuals, organizations in the community that work to provide social and community support. ”



COURAGEOUS CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

How would you describe Jesus as a leader? The Gospel is full of stories of Jesus being courageous, compassionate, challenging, empowering, loving, and sacrificial. Our commitment to grow and nurture Courageous Christian Leadership recognises that leaders (lay or ordained, young or old) who are equipped, confident and supported and released to live as disciples of Jesus Christ bring transformation to the whole of society.

Questions to consider

In considering the shape and character of the kind of leaders needed today and, in the future, reflect on what does courageous leadership look like in your context? How do we develop and release our leaders of all ages, from across diverse backgrounds for mission? Where do you see signs of good collaborative leadership? How are individuals being locally trained and equipped for leadership? Are you called to be a leader of mission and if so, what support and training might you need? How can leaders develop a healthy pattern of self-care and spiritual resourcing, how can the local church support this?

What difference will it make?

By pledging ourselves to growing ***Courageous Christian Leadership*** we will together grow:

- A dynamic intergenerational church generating opportunities for children, young people, families and communities to be leaders of mission within their context.
- A diocese that has a culture of instinctive engagement with children and young people enabling them to express their voice and their agency to lead change.
- Known for the diversity of leadership that fully reflects and represents the communities that we serve.
- Confident that all leaders (lay and ordained) feel fulfilled, valued, and resourced to flourish in their context.
- A Church in which leaders grow leaders across their communities, enabling discipleship and the growth of faith.

COURAGEOUS CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

What is happening already?

Kate Batorska, Headteacher Bridport St Mary's CE School:

- “ For me, leading a school and allowing God to be present and at work through our vision and values has been a journey with many surprises and an abundance of grace, through green pastures and more challenging valleys! The opportunity to share that journey with our church team and the support and wisdom they offer has enabled us to take risks and embark on new ventures in pursuit of flourishing for all of our school community. Sometimes we get to see the fruit of our labours, which is an amazing encouragement and at other times we know that what we sow may not show visible impact to us but could have unseen benefits or longer term impact for others. ”



CHAMPIONING CLIMATE JUSTICE

The fifth mark of mission of the worldwide Anglican communion unites us in responding to the climate emergency. Almost every week we are confronted by the scale of the challenge facing humanity from the changing climate. We are called by the prophets to speak up for justice as climate chaos most impacts those with least responsibility for it. As followers of Jesus, we place at the heart of mission the love of our neighbours including those in our link dioceses of the Sudans on the front line of the devastation caused by climate change.

Questions

As well as advocating for justice in the public square, we have a responsibility to take action for justice through our daily choices as individuals, communities and businesses. What steps has your church already taken to care for the diversity of creation around you? Are you gathering the data on your carbon impact and planning how to reduce carbon emissions? What opportunities of solidarity and action with our neighbours near and far are you able to take forward?

What difference will it make?

By pledging ourselves to action through ***Championing Climate Justice*** we will

- Make creation care integral to Christian mission in our local church and school communities
- Achieve Net Zero Carbon (NZC) by 2030, as we all commit and implement the actions of the Diocesan Net Zero Action Plan (presented at Diocesan Synod October 2023)
- Achieve silver or higher Eco Church awards for all our church buildings
- Use more of our land (owned by PCCs) to actively benefit and restore wildlife

CHAMPIONING CLIMATE JUSTICE

What is happening already?

Rev Hilary Bond, schools worker and pioneer priest for the parish of Wareham, is on the front line of climate activism:

“Climate justice matters to so many people both inside and outside the church. If we can all join together on this issue then not only might we help those who are unfairly suffering the effects of the climate crisis now, but we might also show that we follow a God of loving justice and through our actions bring others to know him.”



FINANCING THE FUTURE SUSTAINABLY

Thinking and talking about money is never easy but it is essential we confront the financial challenge we face so we can plan for the future, to ensure our local churches are able to offer ministry and care to our children and grandchildren. As Bishop Stephen reminded us in his inaugural sermon, God has given us all we need – how are we going to use these gifts for his glory?

Questions to consider:

How can we engage the wider community in thinking about generosity? As you consider the future of mission and ministry in your local area, what financial resources might you deploy to support the provision of people and buildings? How can your own generosity make a difference to others? Are there additional opportunities to work with others to raise money, apply for grants or establish new income through for example a social enterprise? What might the next steps be in your church community to talk about money as part of discipleship? What information would support you in doing this and how might you best engage people? Are there other choices which could be made locally, or within the wider diocese collectively, to finance the future of mission and ministry as you Make Jesus Known? How can the local church begin to free itself from the burden of finance, to be the people God calls us to be?

What difference will it make?

- By pledging ourselves to action through *financing the future sustainably* we will:
- Be transparent and work together as ‘a total economy’ (parishes and the Diocesan Board of Finance) to deploy our resources for mission.
- Help communities to shape their mission and ministry and fund it locally and sustainably
- By 2027, be a DBF that operates a balanced budget
- Help reduce the parish administrative burden and costs through offering a range of support services
- Finance ministry generously through working collaboratively and equipping our communities and parishes to fundraise in innovative ways.

FINANCING THE FUTURE SUSTAINABLY

What is happening already?

Rev Peter Ostli-East, Rector of the Bourne Valley Benefice and Vice Chair of the DBF:

“ Did you know that over 2,000 verses in the Bible speak about money...? Jesus Christ understood the significance of money, and the value we can place on it. He also taught us not to worry about material things, but to use the resources we have been given for the things that truly give life - here and now, and into eternity. I have found that when I choose to give generously, I am blessed, not necessarily in a direct financial way, although often that does happen, but I feel part of something bigger and that I am contributing to the blessing of others too. Generous giving, to enable us, as Parishes, and as a Diocese, to finance the future sustainably, should be something we do joyfully, as we are able, knowing that we are playing our part in helping to make Jesus known, here and now, and for the benefit of future generations to come. ”



Find out more: sign up to our webinars exploring the five priorities in more depth. Sign up *[here](#)*.

Join the conversation! Share what you are doing and your conversations on our new channel #Making Jesus Known. Join *[here](#)*
(you will be asked to submit your email address but you will not have to download an app, or enter any other personal details)