

Sharing the vision

Making Jesus Known





Making Jesus Known

Our vision is to make Jesus Christ known in every place, so that all may flourish and grow, seeking his Kingdom here and now.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

LUKE, CHAPTER 4, VERSE 18 — 19

How will we do this?

First of all, we will make the Lord known by knowing him ourselves – and encouraging others to know more fully the life of his coming kingdom. To know Jesus is to follow him and through listening to people across the Diocese, five paths have been identified to follow that will transform our life together.



Find out more about the paths and how to get involved as:



Individuals



Church Communities



Wider Community



Courageous Christian leadership

The Gospels are full of examples of Jesus' courageous leadership. Most clearly of all, he embarks upon the way of the cross, knowing what it would cost him – and those who followed him there. His way of leading was radically different, upending the usual priorities. He taught that:

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”

MARK, CHAPTER 10, VERSE 43 – 45

He also challenged hypocrisy and injustice, without fear – overturning tables in the temple, and describing Pharisees as ‘vipers’. Read Matthew 23 to find out more!

Through our lives at home, at work, at school we are all called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, learning from and modelling his compassionate and empowering leadership to transform our communities.

How does his model of leadership direct your life and actions?



Individuals

Join a Bible study or home group to learn more about Jesus' leadership and ministry. Would you like to talk to a spiritual adviser to develop your own discipleship and ministry? Or talk to one of the diocesan vocations advisers to explore lay or ordained ministry. Visit our website for more information:

www.salisbury.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/



Church Communities

Is your church community supporting and developing everyone's leadership skills? Do young people and children have a voice in your church community, and are they supported to lead change? How diverse is your church's leadership team – are their opportunities to invite different speakers with different lived experiences to your team. Explore **The Growing Faith Foundation** on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org to find out more about the church, school and household partnership.



Wider Community

What leadership is needed to represent your community? It might be speaking up on behalf of a community need, or seeing how the church can respond directly to needs be more visible in the wider community. How does the leadership of children and young people enable your church to collaborate with the wider community on those issues that matter the most. For example you might want to explore **Faith at Home** on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org which offers inspiring videos of children and young people talking of the core values and themes that impact their lives. As members of the church community work with staff in your local school, talk with children there about what matters to them, it could be about the smaller things – what improvements do they want to see in their community – or about life's big questions. Listen to what they think can be done to address it, then enable them to lead the planning to see how this can be achieved by you all together.



Creative partnerships in local mission

“After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’”

LUKE, CHAPTER 10, VERSE 1 – 2

In Jesus, God enters into relationship with us. And as we come to know him, we find that our relationships deepen with others who are also following him. It is often through others that we see where Jesus is making himself known and where we can join in. Jesus chose his disciples and sent them out, to participate in the missionary work of God. As his disciples today, we have also been appointed to go out and Make Jesus Known.

How does his model of leadership direct your life and actions?



Individuals

By knowing Jesus more ourselves, we can make him known to others. By joining a home group or course in your own church or elsewhere you can build links and networks with others exploring the Gospel ministry of Jesus. In your workplace, at school or home, are there people you could extend an invitation to in order to find out more about Jesus? Can you encourage your church to host a course or drop in for those exploring faith – could you lead it yourself?



Church Communities

Church communities offer a space to bring people together from across the community. It can be a space that other community groups can use, forging new connections with the church. If you have a school, how often do the church and school use their buildings for collaborative purposes? How deep are your connections? There may be new connections to be forged with other groups that have not had previous links with the church but with whom the church community could build new bonds, offer space, and support.



Wider Community

By following Jesus, holding his example before us, we can transform the lives of the community of people around us. Our love for our communities will be shared by other groups and we can work together for impact. If you are involved in a community group, what interests does it have in common with your church group? What other faith groups nearby could form connections with the church community? Are there areas where young people's voices can be amplified – and they can be empowered to lead change?



Working for justice

**“Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.”**

MATTHEW, CHAPTER 5, VERSE 6

The main Bible passage which underpins the diocesan vision to Make Jesus Known is from Luke 4, what is sometimes known as the ‘Nazareth’ manifesto’. The Diocesan 2024 Lent course ([Find it on: www.salisbury.anglican.org](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org)) explored this in detail. Justice and righteousness are linked throughout the Bible – the Psalmist sings “Righteousness and justice make up the foundation of your throne” and Jesus in the Beatitudes sets out how people should live, acting justly. He also spoke about our individual responsibility to bring justice by loving our neighbours and caring for those in our communities – Jesus’ call for justice is to be owned by all, not outsourced to organisations or authorities.

How does his model of leadership direct your life and actions?



Individuals

Jesus set out clearly that we each need to act justly in our own lives, starting by loving our neighbours as ourselves. How does your knowledge of the person and ministry of Jesus lead you to reach out to your neighbours? Campaigns like 40 acts, a Lent challenge run by the charity Stewardship, offer ways individuals can help others through radical, personal, acts of generosity. If you are able to give, consider giving to charities which support those who Jesus prioritised – those on the edge of society, discriminated against and marginalised, the ill and the suffering, at home and abroad.



Church Communities

Does your church community prioritise acting justly and supporting those on the edges? There are so many calls on our time and money, but considering both the needs of the local – perhaps supporting a foodbank, or an after school or holiday club to support parents, as well as thinking of how we support those in need around the world, perhaps by supporting a NGO which works with the poor and marginalised as Jesus did, can provide a useful place to start. Consider getting together people in your church to run an 'audit' of the needs in your community – what gaps are there that aren't being met? How could your church community reach out to those who feel lost and abandoned?



Wider Community

Other groups in the community will share the same desire to work for justice, whether they are groups like the WI, repair cafes, debt advice centres, other faith communities, or young people in community groups or schools. Can the church community offer a space to bring members of different groups together to discern common concerns and act together to address them?



Climate action

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW, CHAPTER 5, VERSE 13 – 16

Taking action for the climate is not only a matter of conserving what we love, but a matter of justice: for communities in parts of the world where the climate emergency is already proving disastrous, and for fellow creatures and nature entrusted to us by God. Jesus called his followers to be salt and light in the world – to influence for good the whole earth we are given. We are called to model this in our own local stewardship, and seek it on behalf of others.

How does his model of leadership direct your life and actions?



Individuals

Everyone thinks of changing the world but no one thinks of changing himself' the Russian author Tolstoy wrote. Change starts in each one of us, in our attitudes and our behaviours in our hearts and minds. There are many different ways of measuring and reducing our carbon footprint, from diet to lifestyle. We can also make prayer for climate justice a priority, and can make our voice heard by joining campaigns, signing petitions and encouraging our local MP to act. Where can you begin?



Church Communities

Eco-church is a simple model by which church communities can take steps towards reducing their church's carbon footprint and helping biodiversity. Many of our churches have already taken early steps towards doing this. There are three stages – bronze, silver and gold. Our vision for the whole diocese aims to achieve silver or higher Eco church awards for all our church buildings. If you haven't yet started, find out more **Eco Church – An A Rocha UK Project**. We are also running an eco-church in an hour campaign later this year, so watch out for that in Grapevine. As a diocese, we are also committed – along with the Church of England – to achieving net zero carbon by 2030. Some ideas for simple first steps to do that are available on our website: www.salisbury.anglican.org



Wider Community

Joining with others to encourage better stewardship of the earth and resources is a clear way that the church can demonstrate it is listening and responding to people's concerns and taking action. Taking action on the climate forms a bridge to young people's concerns and passions particularly, as well as some in the wider community who may not be interested in attending services. Are members of the church involved in community eco groups? What connections can be made between community, church and school eco groups, offering church space and land in innovative ways that improve wellbeing and people's understanding and care for the environment?



Financing the future sustainably

Jesus answered;

**“If you want to be perfect, go, sell
your possessions and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven.
Then come, follow me.”**

MATTHEW, CHAPTER 19, VERSE 21

The Bible talks a lot about money, the use of our resources and the blessings of generosity. Jesus was upfront and direct about the hold money can have on us if we let pursuit of it rule our lives: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”. We shouldn’t, therefore, shy away from discussing it at home and in church, however tricky the prospect might be. Money is a resource with which some of us are blessed, and must be given generously as a way of sharing God’s blessing with others. Worries about money can also dominate and distract us from Jesus’ call to ‘follow me’. This pathway encourages us to think openly and honestly about our resources, as parishes and individuals, and as the Diocesan Board of Finance – and how we can use our resources, which include time and skills, to encourage more people to get to know and follow Jesus.

How does his model of leadership direct your life and actions?



Individuals

Talking about what we can afford to give can be difficult and embarrassing. Yet if we see our money as a blessing from God, not as a reward for hard work, then we can be free from the hold it can have on our lives. This might mean giving freely to people in need, or to your church to support its mission, rather than trying to direct where our money goes or what it is spent on. Encourage conversations about money in your family or workplace and read more of what Jesus said about money in the Gospels. If you have money worries, make contact with Christians Against Poverty who can support you. Many of our churches in the diocese work with CAP to offer advice on money and debt.



Church Communities

Church communities should encourage open discussions of money and stewardship of resources, as churches do about stewardship of the earth. Can you plan a course on generous giving and stewardship? Giving back to God through donations to church life will free up the whole church congregation to be outward looking and focussed on mission and evangelism. The new Share system needs parishes to cover most of their own costs of ministry, and also contribute towards mutual support for those who need it – asking some to pay a little more to help those who have a little less. In that way, we can ensure that we are all doing all we can to Make Jesus Known.



Wider Community

Most community organisations have to fundraise to sustain themselves and the local church is no different. Many in the wider community may not know how the church is funded – have honest conversations with partners and other community groups about the money the church needs to continue to be a presence in the community. As a community group, can you consider how to partner with the church in fundraising for mutually supportive projects or initiatives? Those in the community who don't attend worship may still want to support the church to continue as its presence is important to them – reach out through parish magazines or Friends groups to the wider community.

Notes



**Making
Jesus
Known**

I hope this short leaflet will help you discover where you might join in and be part of the diocesan vision to Make Jesus Known. We know of course that Jesus is already among us, making himself known – inside and outside our churches. As it was with the first disciples, our task is to ‘come and see’ where he is at work and join in, bringing others to know him and be transformed.

Thank you for your partnership in Making Jesus Known.

+ Stephen Lake

**The Rt Revd Stephen Lake
Bishop of Salisbury**



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