

Transforming our Diocese

Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples: THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Introduction

Everyone across the diocese is invited to take part in a major consultation from now until the end of October. The results will shape our shared priorities over the next five years.

This briefing note provides some background for the consultation, ahead of a series of nine Roadshow meetings.



The Archbishop's challenge to us

Archbishop Sentamu reminds us that to be the Church means just one thing – being “a people of prayer constantly being renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit.” God calls us to worship him, and to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ in our communities as his ambassadors.

After completing his Pilgrimage of Prayer the Archbishop said, “These are exciting times. I rejoice that we are experiencing afresh the transforming power of prayer and that so many are hungry to encounter Jesus and respond to his call to become his friends.”

Together we have a key role in helping new people to have a relationship with God through Jesus.

At the same time there are some challenges that we must face.

OUR CHALLENGES Demographics

For the past ten years, the numbers going to church in the diocese have been steadily declining.

And we are getting older. An 81 year old is eight times more likely to go to church than a 21 year old in our diocese.



Church growth

The good news is that half of us attend a church which is growing. But that means that almost half of us are going to churches where numbers are static at best and probably shrinking.

Generosity

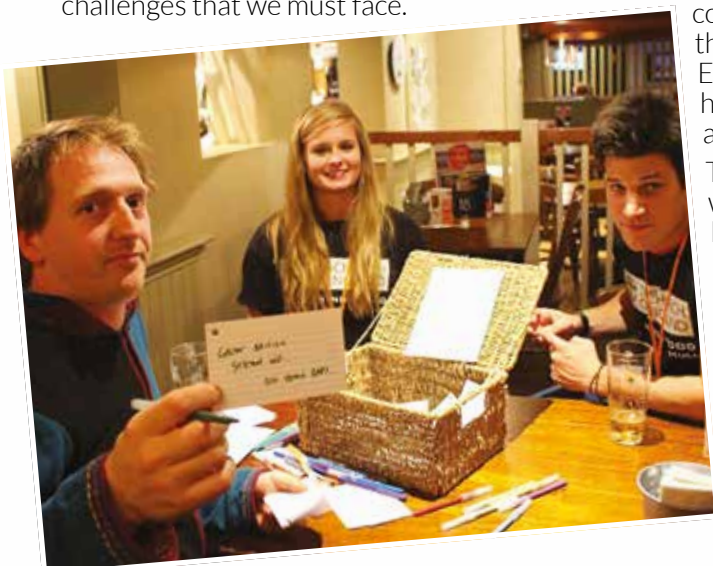
The mutual support we give one another is vital. Many of our communities are among the most deprived in England. But we also have many of the most affluent.

Together we need to work on what it means to be ‘generous churches’. Many individuals are giving sacrificially. But on average, our churchgoers are in the bottom half nationally when it comes to giving a percentage of personal income to the Church’s work.

That has an effect on Freewill Offers and it means that fewer than half of our parishes are able to cover the cost of the paid ministry they receive. Financially, a tiny fraction of our parishes are supporting the rest. That still leaves a shortfall which we are having to meet from the Diocese’s reserves. That can’t continue for long and we need to turn the situation round.

Church Commissioners

From 2017, the Church Commissioners will change the way they allocate funds to all dioceses nationally and we now know that York’s basic allocation of about £2million a year will halve. We will need to work together to make up this significant reduction in our income if we want to continue, or increase, the ministry across the Diocese that is financed through the Common Fund.





Have your say

The nine roadshows will give us all an opportunity to think in greater detail about new mission opportunities open to us, alongside the challenges we face. Everyone attending will be asked to offer answers to the three questions below.



Valuing the things we do

We do so much as well as hold services in our churches:

- ◆ Feeding and supporting the poor
- ◆ Nourishing young minds
- ◆ Providing for families
- ◆ Visiting the old and sick in their homes
- ◆ Offering venue spaces for community events and entertainment
- ◆ Helping to build up communities in town and country

Every one of these is a tangible expression of 'loving our neighbour' and brings the Kingdom of Christ closer to many, every day.

So how can we continue and grow our work for God and his Kingdom over the next few years? Where should we focus our efforts and our resources?

Goals and Priorities

The Archbishop and his leadership team are offering three specific goals to parishes and the whole diocese alike:

1. Reach the people we currently don't
2. Move to growth
3. Establish sustainable finances

Questions

- ◆ In what ways do your hopes and dreams for the church where you are (and across the Diocese) connect with the goals?
- ◆ How will the goals directly influence ministry in your parish?
- ◆ What are the three specific actions which will best help us to achieve our goals?



If you haven't yet booked your free place at one of the roadshows, please do so now by clicking the link for your favoured venue.

Roadshow dates and times

Tuesday 5th July • 7.30pm
[SS Peter & Paul's Church, Pickering*](#)

Thursday 7th July • 7.30pm
[St Michael's Church, Malton](#)

Saturday 30th July • 10.00am
[Emmanuel Church, Bridlington*](#)

Tuesday 6th September • 7.30pm
[Archbishop Holgate's School, York*](#)

Wednesday 7th September • 7.30pm
[Archbishop Sentamu Academy, Hull](#)

Friday 16th September • 7.30pm
[Northallerton Methodist Hall, Northallerton](#)

Saturday 17th September • 10.00am
[Manor C of E Academy, Nether Poppleton, York](#)

Wednesday 28th September • 7.30pm
[Beverly Minster, Beverley](#)

Thursday 29th September • 7.30pm
[Trinity Centre, North Ormesby, Middlesborough](#)

