

## What will this mean?

### Prayer

We will pray. Prayer will be a sustained and sustaining underpinning of all we plan and do



### Deanery leadership

We will develop the capacity and energy of deaneries so they become a vehicle and resource for developing mission action plans

### Leadership development

We will create programmes of support and training to help lay and ordained leaders in their personal and professional development, reaching out specifically for younger leaders and those being called into pioneering roles where 10 new roles are anticipated

### Resource for mission

We will resource for mission, with the development of 30 church plants for under-churched localities

### Sustainable rural church

We will create a sustainable model for the rural church, appropriate to different contexts



### Engagement with the common good

We will encourage church engagement with initiatives in support of the common good with particular regard to areas of social deprivation

### Vocational development

We will identify and support the vocation of 100 new chaplains, self-supporting ministers and ordinands over five years through teaching, encouragement, information and revised training

### It will also mean:

Establishing more learning communities  
Developing a diocesan resourcing plan



## Have your say

We now have a clearer vision for the diocese and will be working to take forward these priorities. Further thought and planning will be needed in order that we can resource and deliver them. There are significant challenges to consider and many questions still to be answered. People have already asked:

- How are deaneries going to be supported in their new role?
- What missional activities should we be focusing on?
- How does the strategy strengthen our work with children and young people?
- How do we extend and develop the links we have with schools and colleges?
- How might our link with Zambia extend our partnership in mission with the global church?
- What does it mean to 'live the story and tell the story' of Jesus?
- I'm in a small, rural parish. How will the strategy help me?
- Do we have the resources to support these initiatives?

We hope to share answers to those questions as we work on the action plans that will support our aspirations. In the meantime, your feedback, questions and answers are needed.

Email them to [shapingourfuture@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:shapingourfuture@bathwells.anglican.org)  
or submit them on our website at:  
[www.bathwells.org/shapingfeedback](http://www.bathwells.org/shapingfeedback).



# Shaping our Future

In response to God's immense love for us, we seek to be God's people living and telling the story of Jesus.

# A message from Bishop Peter

We are all part of the fellowship of Christians in Somerset and beyond. As followers of Jesus we are called to listen to his words, follow in his steps and allow him to transform our lives.

We have been thinking about how we might shape our future and been developing a new diocesan strategy with this purpose in our hearts. Prayerful discussion and consultation throughout the diocese has confirmed our conviction of the need to be more intentional and missional in our use of all that God has given and entrusted to us.

This conviction is driven by our vision for the diocese:

**In response to God's immense love for us, we seek to be God's people living and telling the story of Jesus.**

We will only deliver this vision if all of us across the diocese work together under God to help make this happen. I invite you to play a role in helping make this vision a reality.

This is the start of an exciting new chapter for Bath and Wells, one that we will need to continue to revisit, rework and develop as together we seek to be God's people living and telling the story of Jesus.

I look forward to walking this journey with you as we seek together to follow Christ in all things.

+ Peter Bath and Wells

**Rt Revd Peter Hancock,**  
Bishop of Bath and Wells



## Our priorities



We have discerned three priorities for action that need to be at the centre of our diocesan life to help each and every one of us to 'live and tell the story of Jesus'.

## To place mission and evangelism at the heart of everything we do

This means that we will *shape* our life together to serve and embrace our communities better; we will undertake activities and initiatives with an explicitly missional purpose and engage proactively with our communities at a personal, parish, deanery and diocesan level.



IMAGE CREDIT: Gerry Lynch

## To realign our ministry resources towards mission

This means that we will *shift* the balance of the resources we deploy towards mission and provide resources for explicitly missional roles; that we will seek numerical and spiritual growth as we trust in the leading and guiding of God's Holy Spirit.



## To identify, develop and use the gifts of all our people

This means that we will seek new ministry models that help us to make best use of the gifts and talents that God has given to his people; that we will seek to build congregations that flourish through serving each other, serving their communities and witnessing to the love of God in Jesus Christ.

