

RENEWING LIVING GOD'S LOVE

A REPORT FOR ST ALBANS DIOCESAN SYNOD

17 OCTOBER 2015

INTRODUCTION

1. In 2011, the parishes, schools and chaplaincies of the Diocese of St Albans were invited to embark on a shared journey of *Living God's Love* by Going Deeper into God; Transforming Communities; and Making New Disciples.

2. Four years on, the Bishop's Staff and Council agreed that there was a need to renew and reenergize *Living God's Love* to ensure it remains meaningful for today's context, and sets out an engaging way forward to which every part of the diocese feels inspired to contribute. In December 2014, a Vision Development Enabler was temporarily employed to facilitate a *Living God's Love* renewal project.

3. This report to Synod contains the key findings and conclusions from that project. It is made up of three main parts:

- **Part 1** provides a two-page summary of the proposed way forward for *Living God's Love* for 2016-20 (*Living God's Love 2020*)
- **Part 2** provides a full description of the renewal of *Living God's Love*. It explains where we have got to on our journey so far (2011-15), and how this has informed the proposed renewed direction for the next five years.
- **Part 3** summarises the results of the comprehensive listening exercise that was undertaken across the diocese to inform the renewal of *Living God's Love*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. Synod is asked to consider the contents of this report and pass the following motion:

This Synod:

- i) celebrates the achievements that the diocese has experienced in *Living God's Love* since 2011;
- ii) recognises that some elements of *Living God's Love* have proved more challenging to the diocese and its parishes;
- iii) welcomes the proposals contained in *Living God's Love 2020* and commends them for early consideration across the diocese;
- iv) urges all boards and councils, deanery synods, PCCs and other stakeholders to reflect on how best they can together implement the proposals; and
- v) commits itself to ensuring that decisions it takes over the next five years are informed by, and support, *Living God's Love 2020*.