

A journey

Because God loves the world without limit, bringing life and transformation,

we are seeking to **live God's love**

with the values of

generosity, joy, imagination and courage that the Holy Spirit releases in us.

with a 2020 vision

So that God's kingdom might grow in our world,

we have a vision of:

flourishing Christ centred communities,

inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds,

to **discover** God,

to **grow** in their relationship with him and to **respond** to his transforming love, through **servicing** others.

for growth

We will know that we are realising this vision as we see:

- growth in faith and discipleship across all age groups
- growth in the number of people from all age groups becoming Christians
- growth in service that enriches and renews our local, national and international communities

Living God's Love 2020

**A renewed direction for
Living God's Love
throughout the Diocese of St Albans**

Keeping on track

*Our journey is focused on
three interconnected paths:*

Going Deeper into God

- making space to connect with God through scripture, prayer, and stillness
- ensuring the quality of our worship helps different people grow in faith
- responding joyfully to God's call to discipleship in all areas of our lives

Making New Disciples

- inviting people to share and discover the good news of Christ
- being better able to confidently share our faith
- living with Christian distinctiveness and generous service

Transforming Communities

- seeking to discern and join in with God's good purposes for local, national and international communities through prayer and listening
- actively and courageously tackling issues of social injustice
- protecting and treasuring the gift of God's creation



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**

Taking steps (2016-20)

To help us go forward on our journey, we will together invest in:

Discerning our different contributions to *Living God's Love*

Priority focus - celebrating, learning from and building on recent experience.

- All deaneries, parishes, chaplaincies and schools will be invited to revisit their MAP in order to celebrate what has been achieved; learn from what has been difficult; discern new priorities in the light of their experiences and *Living God's Love 2020*, and identify further support needed.
- Targeted expert support and guidance will be made available to help with the renewal of MAPs.
- More systematic, proactive and targeted feedback and follow-up assistance will be offered after MAPs have been submitted.

Equipping ourselves to *Live God's Love*

Priority focus - equipping ourselves to better engage with local communities and to reach out to people of all ages and backgrounds.

- The encouragement of vocations and the training and support offered to clergy and lay ministers, will assist them in contributing to the 2020 vision of a flourishing diocese.
- Parishes, schools and chaplaincies will be able to easily access information on available supporting resources that could help them implement their MAP.
- Inspiring material will be developed to help individuals make progress on their personal *Living God's Love* journeys.

Supporting each other to *Live God's Love*

Priority focus - renewing the life of deaneries as communities of mission partnerships.

- Increased mutual support in deaneries will be aided through a resourced and enhanced role for Rural Deans.
- Information from MAPs will be used to identify fruitful partnerships.
- More effective ways of sharing best practice with each other will be developed.

Making things simpler and developing learning

Priority focus - identifying a simple means of collecting information that will enable us to assess whether we are moving towards our vision.

- Baseline and follow up information will be collected against a set of simple measures.
- Listening and learning from each other will form a key part of any review process.
- Our central processes, guidance and data collection procedures will be made as streamlined and clear as possible.

*This paper is summary of the proposed way forward for *Living God's Love* for 2016-20.*

It flows from the listening exercise that was undertaken across the diocese in the first half of 2015.