



# RESOURCING THE FUTURE

## PROJECTS AND PROGRESS





# Introduction

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Romans 10:14-15

This booklet provides a snapshot of the work supported by the national Church funding as part of the Renewal & Reform programme: the Church of England’s vision to become a growing Church for all people in all places. The funding is distributed through **Strategic Development Funding** and **Lowest Income Communities Funding**.

Dioceses can apply for **Strategic Development Funding** to support ambitious projects to make a significant impact on their mission to the communities they serve.

**Lowest Income Communities Funding** is designed to support and develop mission in low income communities across England. The funding is given to 25 dioceses based on a formula taking into account the number of residents in dioceses with an income below the national average. Dioceses use it in a variety of ways, from awarding grants for specific projects to supporting those parishes where they do not meet the full costs of the ministry they receive.

These pages provide a summary of the fruits that have been seen so far from the projects supported by Strategic Development Funding and delivered through God’s grace by people in dioceses and parishes across England. The case studies highlight just some of the projects supported by the Strategic Development Funding and the Lowest Income Communities Funding which are focusing on mission to children and young people, mission in deprived areas, and those which are delivering innovative models of mission.

June 2019

# These infographics show the total outcomes predicted from all projects supported so far by the Strategic Development Funding.

Total new disciples predicted as a direct result of projects

**54,000**



Number seen so far **8,500**



**480** exploring vocations to ordained ministry



Over **1,600** church plants, Fresh Expressions of Church, and new worshipping communities



Additional new disciples predicted from the wider effects of projects

**52,000**



Projects for young people hope to achieve **10,000** new young disciples



And engage with a further **30,000**



**1,700** people trained



Over **1,100** new lay leaders

Around **300** pioneer posts



# Mission amongst young people

One of the key challenges facing the Church is engaging more effectively with young people. Currently, the Church engages with just under 1% of 12-17 year olds and 0.5% of 18-24 year olds.

Over a third of Strategic Development Funding has been awarded to projects which include a focus on mission to young people.

“A particular highlight for me has been The Evening Mass – a weekly service combining traditional Catholic ritual and liturgy with band-led charismatic worship which launched in June 2018 – it will be really exciting to see how this service continues to develop.”

Quote from Claire, who attends St John’s church Leamington Spa along with other churches which are part of Coventry’s Acceler8 project.

## Acceler8

### Coventry

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in June 2015*

The Acceler8 project is developing mission and ministry with young adults in a range of settings and has generated 570 additional disciples, including 270 in the 20s-30s age range. A team of ten Development Leaders, made up of clergy and laity, work in local churches across a range of traditions to engage and disciple young people in the diocese. They’ve learned that young people particularly value the community provided by small groups. They also encourage involvement of young people in church leadership.



## Generation to Generation

### Peterborough

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in June 2018*

Generation to Generation (Gen2) is investing in high-quality training and employment of children's and youth missioners to develop patterns of innovative and effective outreach and discipleship amongst young people, with a view to replicating these elsewhere.

The diocese's successful Youth Ministry Apprenticeship programme is being developed from a one year into a five-year training and employment programme. Apprentices will progress into an undergraduate training course lasting up to three years, and will then be employed full-time. The missioners will be working alongside a network of newly appointed volunteer Youth and Children's Champions and will work closely with the Gen2 Youth and Children's Team.

The scope of the programme is being expanded to include ministry with children and families, and an emphasis on intergenerational ministry. The project is part of a grassroots vision to prioritise ministry with children and young people in every

church in the diocese. Every parish is encouraged to engage with their local schools and community and to include children and young people in the whole life of the church.

TODAY, WORSHIP, MUSIC ... AND A FEW SURPRISES

# FIRE CHURCH

A YOUTH EVENT  
FOR THOSE AGED 11-18

SATURDAY 30 MARCH, 7-9PM  
PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL  
GATHER BY CATHEDRAL MAIN DOORS

FREE  
BOOKING IS REQUIRED VIA EVENTBRITE.  
SEARCH PETERBOROUGH FIRE CHURCH  
ON EVENTBRITE

crops gen2 #FIRECHURCH @pborodloyouth

crops.uk @cropsuk cropsuk crops.org.uk

Fire Church took place in the grounds of Peterborough Cathedral, and provided food, worship, communion and prayer gathered around fire.

## Capital Youth

### London

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in June 2017*

London diocese is seeking to double the number of young people involved in local Christian communities. Five youth ministers have been established and are pioneering fresh expressions of church for young people. The diocese is placing at least one youth advocate in each episcopal area, training more youth workers and developing training for clergy in youth work. Parish ministry is being further strengthened through grants for youth work projects and by building on the existing pioneering apprentice scheme. The project also aims to develop stronger links with schools, for example through developing Christian Unions, football academies and prayer spaces.

Capital Youth's investment in youth ministers has seen strong growth in the number of young people attending specifically faith-based activities.



The project has published a booklet, illustrated by Dave Walker, for use in churches in the diocese as an introduction to how to engage with young people in the church.



# Mission in deprived areas

The Church is working to understand how to undertake effective mission in deprived areas. Currently church attendance per capita is just under 1% in the 20% of areas which are assessed as having greatest deprivation. To date, a third of SDF has been awarded to support mission in these areas.

“I believe passionately that if we are serious about the renewal of the Church we must commit ourselves afresh to proclaiming the Good News to the poor.”

Bishop of Burnley, Rt Rev Philip North



A small group in Canterbury's Ignite project

## Ignite

### Canterbury

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in June 2018*

Canterbury diocese is seeking to establish nine new worshipping communities throughout the diocese and in the Channel Islands, based on the model of “Ignite”, a fresh expression of Church which aims to reach marginalised and deprived communities.

These new worshipping communities will be based in existing churches and paid enablers will be placed for three years in each host church to lead the work locally with the assistance of volunteer support. Enablers can look for guidance and support from an experienced overall project leader.

Canterbury diocese will seek to use the Ignite methodology and ‘Ignite DNA’ in other contexts and localities within the diocese, the Channel Islands and further afield - with the view to Ignite becoming a nationally recognised model.



Good Friday at St Paul's church Ireland Wood



## Church Planting to Strengthen Mission Leeds

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in December 2017*

St George's church in Leeds is building a 'culture of invitation', hosting twice-yearly 'Hello Sundays' where the congregation are encouraged to bring a friend: at the last event there were 190 extra guests.

In January 2018 a planting team of 45 left St George's church to strengthen the church of St Paul's in Ireland Wood, a deprived estate north of Leeds. The team have had a strong emphasis on engaging with the local community, running a toddler group and an Alpha course, amongst other events. The congregation has shown steady growth, exceeding their original goal for the first year. Increasing discipleship is evidenced by the fact that 45% of the congregation attend a small group.

Partnerships on community events with the residents' association, local councillors and businesses mean that church is known as good news to the local area. Community engagement such as involvement with the local foodbank and working with local children and families' services to support rehoused families means that there is now a substantial fringe group to draw further into their church family.

# Innovative Projects

Dioceses continue to develop innovative models of ministry through their projects. Increasingly, there is an emphasis on new forms of training and development. These include a ministry experience volunteer scheme, a School of Discipleship which focuses on the spiritual formation and training of lay disciples and leaders in mission, and a project which aims to develop a role model for Anglo-Catholic evangelistic leadership.

Strategic Development Funding is also supporting some projects which are seeking to deliver radical structural change to create a new platform for mission.



## Multiplying Congregations

### Liverpool

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in December 2017*

Liverpool diocese is seeking to multiply congregations within existing parish and deanery structures, developing a low-cost model which will complement conventional church planting. Each new congregation has a leadership team, who take part in a leadership development process which involves regular prayer, coaching, and training.

New congregations also receive financial support which decreases over a 6 year period, in order to realise the full potential for immediate growth and longer term sustainability. The aspiration is that they each grow to 50 people, and then form new congregations themselves.

18 new congregations are already in place amongst a range of groups, including young adults, asylum seekers and primary schools.

## God for All

### Carlisle

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in June 2016*

The ambition of God for All is that every person in Cumbria will have had an opportunity to encounter God by 2020. To achieve this, they are supporting the development of Mission Communities and the creation of fresh expressions and initiatives to connect with those outside of the Church.

One of these fresh expressions is Network Youth Church which has increased youth engagement from 500 to more than 2,000 in two years through a wide range of activities including drop-in youth



clubs, question spaces, cafe and prayer spaces, schools work, street-based youth work, outdoor activities and indoor sports.

Other fresh expressions include Messy Church, Mountain Pilgrims, and a yoga group. Of the fresh expressions taking place outside of churches most attendees are either unchurched or dechurched, with unchurched attendees averaging 81% of the attendees in Mountain Pilgrims, Yoga and Network Youth Church. An independent audit of fresh expressions completed in April 2019 estimates that fresh expressions attendance in the diocese represents a quarter of total attendance.

## Small to Small Community Church Plants Project

### Manchester

*awarded Strategic Development Funding in June 2018*

Manchester's Small to Small Community Church Plants project aims to plant small churches, involving people from small churches in areas where there is a high diversity of language and ethnicity and in areas where there are high levels of deprivation but lower levels of ethnic diversity. Both networks aim to empower lay people as key vision holders from the outset. One such small congregation is The Trinity Community Church (TCC) Rusholme which meets in the Alexandria Library at various points during the week, holding Bible studies in English, Farsi, Kurdish and Arabic. On Sundays they meet in a nearby community centre.

TCC has grown and divided to form two congregations, one in Rusholme and the other in nearby Fallowfield. The hope is for the model to reproduce more and more churches that reflect the diverse communities they serve.



“TCC is more than a place to worship: it’s family. People invite you to their homes and share their food. I like the diversity, the different languages and countries that people come from. We’re like one body, helping each other out.”

Hatim, a TCC member who was recently baptised

# Lowest Income Communities Funding

Lowest Income Communities funding was introduced in January 2017, replacing the previous formula based funding. The money is given to 25 dioceses and seeks to give them extra capacity to support the Church's mission in the communities with the lowest incomes. Over time, the aim is that the funding will sustain and strengthen the Church's mission in these communities, becoming an investment in the Church's growth.

## **St Catherine's Church, Stoke Aldermoor**

### **Coventry**

St Catherine's church is supported by Lowest Income Communities Funding. They are currently worshipping in several portacabins next to a primary school on land bought for them by the diocese and have an average attendance of 30-40. They run many outreach initiatives including a foodbank which provides hot meals in partnership with a local food waste charity, a credit union, a community garden and three stay and play groups for the local community. They also have a youth worker and are the only open youth provision on the estate, providing an after-school club and weekly events for teenagers.

They are in the process of building a new church on the site to replace the temporary buildings, which is being supported by Lowest Income Communities Funding alongside other grants they've received.



## St John's, Parks

### Bristol

The parish of Parks and Walcot, Swindon is amongst the 10% most deprived in the country and receives Lowest Income Communities Funding. This has supported them in developing a ministry amongst women on the estate who are survivors of childhood trauma.

Over the past few years, a combination of gently building relationships, offering prayer, and sharing the gospel in a multi-sensory way – using art, holding crosses, oils and laminated bible verses – has led to a significant number of mostly single-parent mothers and their children coming to faith. 28 adults have been confirmed since 2013. Since 2018 a weekly choir gathering has further developed relationships and faith. This has now led to a new fresh expression of church once a month called Crazy Christians, after Bishop Michael Curry's book of the same name. This is led by

women from the estate and attended by 60 adults and children, with support behind the scenes from the incumbent, Revd Linda Fletcher. St John's church also runs a Messy Church, as well as several other outreach activities such as an art group and term-time tea and toast gatherings.



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