****

**Diocese of Norwich**

**Vision and Priorities for our life together.**

**Imagining the future.**

Jesus said, “*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”* (John 10.10). We see the ministry of the whole diocese as being about how we live **our life together** for the flourishing of every person in every place. Any vision should help the local church to flourish and grow in confidence that we are loved by God.

Jesus also said, *“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me”* (Matthew 16.24). The heart of our mission is about being open to, and enabling others to discover, a life **transformed by Christ.**

We join in Christ’s mission, conscious of the five marks of mission of the Anglican Communion, through responding to God and the world.

We will **prayerfully** proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, rooting ourselves in Scripture and the sacraments. We will wait upon God in stillness, contemplation and intercession. Our corporate prayer, an ongoing conversation with *God*, will embrace traditional, fresh expressions, online and evolving models of being Church.

We will **pastorally** model the ministry of the whole people of God after *Jesus* the good shepherd. We will respond with loving service to the needs of the communities where we live and work, and teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

We will **prophetically** speak out and act, with the fire of the *Holy Spirit*, challenging injustice, confronting violence, and working for peace and reconciliation. We will seek to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Being open to all of this will enable God in Jesus to accomplish **far more than all we can ask or imagine** (Ephesians 3.20). If we allow the Holy Spirit to breathe God’s divine life into our human plans, much more will be made of them, for God can bring abundance from scarcity.

We are called to be faithful, as God is always faithful to us. By prayerfully placing the life of the diocese where our sails can best catch the wind of the Holy Spirit, God will take us where God wills.

**The vision for the Diocese of Norwich 2021 – 2026:**

**Transformed by Christ**

**Prayerful - Pastoral - Prophetic**

**Various pieces of work emerge from the three priorities within the vision**

***Prayerful***

* We will ***deepen our*** ***prayer life and learning*** and provide a sense of belonging within worship offered in a range of styles for all ages.
* ***We will equip people in*** ***evangelism*** to find ways to share their faith during the week and be invitational to others to join the life of their local Church, recognising the particular need to engage with children, young people and families.
* We will ***live a life of generous stewardship*** in response to God’s gifts to us*.*

***Pastoral***

* We will promote and equip the variety of ***lay and ordained ministries***, knowing that all are invited to hear God’s call and selflessly respond in loving service.
* We will have honest conversations leading to decisions about the mission potential, viability and ways to ease the burden of our ***church buildings***, many of which are treasured places of holiness, stillness and memory, whilst also exploring new possibilities for planting and nurturing Christian communities.
* We will encourage every church community and church school to be engaged somehow, often in partnership, in ***loving service to its local, diocesan and world neighbours***.

***Prophetic***

* We will ensure an active priestly or lay worker/enabler ***presence in our lowest economic communities*** as we seek to address the growing inequalities in our society.
* We will seek to become a safe Church for all and one that embraces ***diversity and radical Christian inclusion***.
* We will work to ensure that ***ecological concerns*** are integral to our life together as we care for our single island planet home.