



Saturday 11 March 2017 saw the official launch of our new Diocesan Vision, which is summed up in just four words: growing church bringing hope.

It is a vision for the whole of the Diocese of Newcastle, for each parish, community and chaplaincy, and I hope and pray that we will allow the vision to shape the whole of our life together, and our lives as followers of Christ. It is, I hope, an exciting vision, one that will engage and encourage as many of us as possible.

It is an ambitious vision, but we also need to be realistic. We cannot do everything at once, and if we try, we are bound to fail. That is why we have been working hard at developing five strands of work with very specific actions. Those five strands can be summed up as follows: deepening our spirituality; equipping teams of lay and ordained to lead their churches into growth; re-imagining ministry in rural areas; focusing on enabling their attendance; and a focused piece of work in Newcastle city centre to engage with students, city workers and the vulnerable.

This is a vision for all of us, though we are conscious that in the first year, especially as we work on pilot schemes, not everyone will feel involved in the five specific strands. In due course, we hope that a significant number of parishes in the Diocese will participate actively in one of the strands, but in the meantime I would like to invite each parish to enjoy exploring how they are contributing to the vision of growing church bringing hope. Perhaps there are things in your current Mission Action Plan that encompass the vision, perhaps you will feel inspired to start something new as a response to the vision. Whatever the case, I would love to hear about it, and I invite you to send your stories and plans for growing church bringing hope to me: please send them to [\*\*vision@Newcastle.anglican.org\*\*](mailto:vision@Newcastle.anglican.org)

We will then share good news stories on the website, through social media and in the Link about how parishes and communities are working towards the vision of growing church bringing hope: watch this space for some of those good news stories!

+ Christine

