



# Growing Younger and More Diverse

## Briefing and Update

Item 11

## What is the Diocesan Investment Programme?

Funding is available for strategic missional programmes

- **Substantial funding is available for strategic missional programmes** - subject to Church of England criteria
- **The aim is to enable the bold outcomes and strategic priorities of the Church's Vision and Strategy**
  - to develop new areas of mission
  - to revitalise mission
  - to scale up missional approaches that are proving effective
- **There is a 'strategic development approach' over 9 years**
  - for major change programmes
  - to develop mission in a geographical area or demographic group
  - for diocesan wide mission and capacity, innovation or the sharing of learning
- **Bids need to be integrated with a Diocesan Missional Plan**

We are targeting the June SMII Board, subject to completion of the Luton consultation. Programme workstreams are all in development.



- *GYMD Board with representation across each archdeaconry and central functions*
- *Bishops Staff + GYMDB + MMB + DBF + DBE updated and supportive of direction of travel*

## Project update

Three projects are agreed and underway. Other possible projects are being explored with Rural/Area Deans.

- **Three projects are agreed:**
  - **Watford** – emerging proposals under review and development (working group, chapter, and synod)
  - **Hatfield** – emerging proposals under review and development (Bishop's Hatfield team)
  - **Luton** – consultation underway with incumbents, lay leaders and organisations (September to November)
- **Other possible locations** are being explored with Rural / Area Deans. Not every deanery is ready now to take on a missional project, but the 9-year programme gives opportunity later.
- There is a **leadership stream** to grow the number of younger and more diverse leaders (lay and ordained) of which **The Alban Way** is a key part, along with **diversity initiatives** and vocational capacity
- There is an **educational stream** with the DBE to boost engagement with schools.

## Missional plan update

The missional plan is in development

- We need to submit a **10-year missional plan** as part of our bid – with defined content
- The first half sets out our **vision, challenges, current approach, and future priorities**:
  - the foundation is **Living God's Love**, which is unchanged - we have built on this
  - the prior **capacity bid** had vision & strategy content - we have re-cut this under the required headings
  - we then discussed it with Bishop Staff and governance bodies, who revised some content
- The second half sets out **proposed initiatives**, with the **missional, people and financial plans** to deliver them – and will develop this alongside our emerging projects
- We will **come back to Synod in March** to engage with you on both the emergent projects and missional plan.